花とゆめCOMICS

ざ・ちぇんじ!

山内直実 原作 氷室冴子 4

花とゆめ COMICS

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ざ・ちぇんじ!〔4〕

山内直実

884

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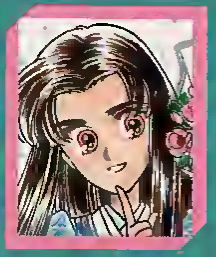
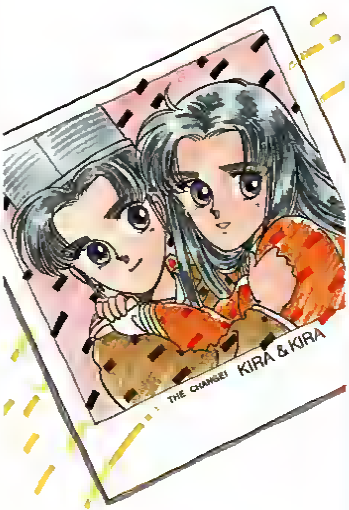


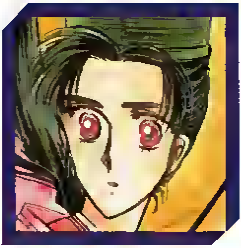
花とゆめ COMICS

白泉社

●山内直実の本

蕨ケ丘物語
雑居時代　全3巻
ざ・ちぇんじ！　全4巻
なんて素敵にジャパネスク　①〜⑥
――花とゆめコミックス――
カードギャラリー　山内直実





作品かいせつ

綺羅尚侍の入内が決定――ギリギリの瀬戸際に（残る道は二人が入れ替わるしかないっ）と尚侍は失踪してる綺羅中将探しを決意した!!!――綺羅と帝、尚侍と女東宮それぞれの恋する気持ちが力になる♡♡絶対、ずうえ～ったい!!見逃せない最終巻は、初期作品2編も収録。

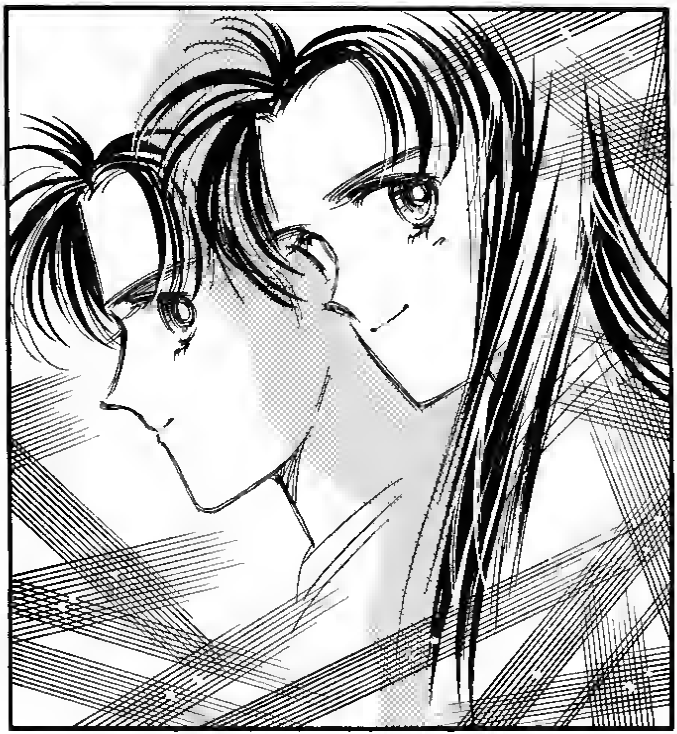
花とゆめCOMICS

The Changelings (The Change!)

Vol.4

Illust : Yamauchi Naomi

Story : Himura Saeko



I'M HAPPY FOR HIM.
THE WHEEL HAS FINALLY TURNED IN HIS FAVOR THIS TIME
SADAIJIN-SAN HAS BEEN UNDER THE WORST LUCK, WITH KIRA NO CHUUJOU'S DISAPPEARANCE AND SO MANY OTHER MATTERS.

The people of the capital heard the news of Naishi no kami becoming an Imperial consort and...
anticipated it happily
(with a few exceptions)
The imperial consort Umetsubo for instance.
YOU ALREADY HAVE ME, YOUR MAJESTY

LISTEN!
HAVE YOU HEARD?
OF COURSE, IT'S THE BIG NEWS!
NAISHI NO KAMI, LORD SADAJIN'S DAUGHTER, IS TO BE PROMOTED TO AN IMPERIAL CONSORT!!
NO WONDER HIS MAJESTY WAS ALWAYS MAKING TRIPS TO THE CROWN PRINCESS'S NASHITSUBO MANOR LATELY.
YES, IT MAKES SENSE NOW!

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A NEW INTERPRETATION OF TORIKAEBAYA MONOGATARI
さ・ちぇんじ!
The Change!
"Torikaebaya Monogatari = The Changelings" a classical 12th Century Japanese novel

Well, how would someone who is physically and mentally male become an "imperial consort"...?
However
For the one whom everyone was talking about, this news presented a life-threatening problem.
You ask why?

NASHITSUBO
HOW COME?!
WHY DOES NAISHI NO KAMI HAVE TO BE AN IMPERIAL CONSORT?
ISN'T THE PERSON THE EMPEROR LOVES KIRA NO CHUUJOU?
SO WHY NAISHI NO KAMI?
SHHH !!
YOU CAN'T BLURT THAT OUT SO LOUDLY.
anyone who heard it would think the emperor is gay
.....
MUPH

CROWN PRINCESS!!
THAT NAISHI NO KAMI IS IN FACT A MAN AND CAN'T BE HIS CONSORT.
I'LL MARCH OVER THERE AND TELL HIM IN PERSON
FINE!
Buuut I don't want you to become somebody's wiiife!
THE GIST OF THE PROBLEM IS
THE EMPEROR ASSUMES THAT I WAS THE LADY HE MET AT KITASAGA.
BUT HE SAID SHE WAS THE MOST PURE AND INNOCENT LADY HE HAD EVER SEEN.
NAKED ?!
I THINK IT WAS THREE YEARS AGO ...
SHE WAS BATHING NAKED IN A RIVER THERE. I SCOLDED HER WELL FOR IT
IF IT WAS KITASAGA, THAT LADY MUST HAVE BEEN KIRA-SAMA
THE LADY WASN'T NAISHI NO KAMI WHO IS A MAN, BUT KIRA NO SHIIJUJOU WHO IS ACTUALLY A WOMAN
BUT AT THIS POINT, IT'LL ONLY MAKE A MESS OF THINGS IF WE TELL HIM STRAIGHT-FORWARDLY THAT
MET AT KITASAGA?

would defend Kira to the death
I DON'T KNOW, BUT IT WAS THE ONLY TIME IN KITASAGA THAT I LET HER OUT OF MY SIGHT.
WHAT KIND OF PURE AND INNOCENT LADY GOES NAKED OUTDOORS?
MY PROB-LEM!!
PLEASE COULD WE GO BACK TO MY PROBLEM?
oh lord
.....
I MAY NOT KNOW
WHETHER THE EMPEROR FELL IN LOVE WITH NEE-SAMA WHEN SHE WAS A COURTIER
OR AS THE LADY OF KITASAGA
BUT THE MAIN POINT IS...
"THAT'S ALL"?!
THAT'S ALL
HE HAS NOW TURNED HIS AFFECTIONS TOWARDS ME WHOSE FACE LOOKS LIKE HERS
BUT SINCE SHE ISN'T HERE ANYMORE
HE LOVES NEE-SAMA

Jeez
CALM DOWN!
EVEN IF I WANTED TO BECOME AN IMPERIAL CONSORT, IT'S IMPOSSIBLE THIS SITUATION IS COMPLETELY DIFFERENT FROM THE MARRIAGE BETWEEN NEE-SAMA AND THE 3RD LADY
I'D BE CAUGHT IN AN INSTANT!
HE'D PROBALY HAVE THE FRIGHT OF HIS LIFE
hey now
?
YOU ACTUALLY WANT TO BECOME AN IMPERIAL CONSORT DON'T YOU?!
WHAT ABOUT THE PROMISE YOU GAVE ME?!
promise
CROWN PRINCESS...!
THAT'S RIGHT!
YOU SHOULD DO THAT
IF THERE'S NO WAY OUT
I MIGHT HAVE TO DISAPPEAR TOO
NAISHI NO KAMI, NO... YOUNG MASTER
I WILL FOLLOW YOU ANYWHERE YOU GO!!
PLEASE DISAPPEAR AND LOOK FOR KIRA-SAMA.
SAYURI...

IT AMOUNTS TO SEVERE INSUBORDINATION YOUR FATHER SAIDAIJIN MAY BE BANISHED FROM THE COURT
BUT...
IF NAISHI NO KAMI DISAPPEARS WHILE UNDER ROYAL DECREE TO BECOME AN IMPERIAL CONSORT
IT DOESN'T WORK THAT WAY
.....
I NEED TO DIG A WAY OUT MYSELF
AND DISAPPEARING FROM THE PALACE ARE BOTH DEAD ENDS
AS BECOMING A CONSORT
THE PROBLEMS KEEP ESCALATING BECAUSE WE TRY TO DEFY NATURE
THE BEST SOLUTION WOULD BE ME AND NEEE-SAMA SWITCHING PLACES TO THE ROLES OF OUR TRUE GENDER

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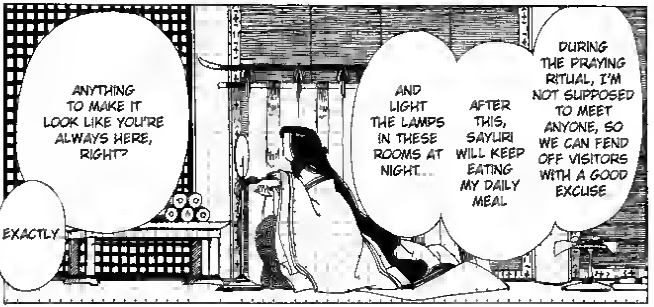
IN ORDER TO DO THIS CONVENIENTLY
AND
FIRST AND FOREMOST, I MUST FIND NEE-SAMA
NEE-SAMA'S INAPPROPRIATE HAIR LENGTH FOR A WOMAN AND THE RISK OF BEING CAUGHT AFTER WE SWITCH BACK...
THESE AREN'T IMMEDIATE PROBLEMS.
EH?
WE NEED A PLAN
'THE MOLTING OF THE CICADA'.

SO LADY NAISHI NO KAMI HAS TEMPORARILY LEFT THE PALACE?
YES, TO PRAY FOR THE SAFETY OF THE MISSING KIRA NO CHUUJOU
SHE'S TO DISCIPLINE HERSELF UNDER MANY STRICT RELIGIOUS RITES AND THE CHANTING OF 20 SUTRAS
WHAT A DEDICATED, LOVING SISTER
SHE PROBALY FEELS GUILTY
THAT SHE'S ABOUT TO BE BLESSED WITH AN IMPERIAL CONSORT TITLE WHILE HER BROTHER'S FATE IS STILL UNKNOWN
.....

さてのっけから
おわびと訂正
第2巻の70ページ
2コマ目
実家の右大臣家
とありますが
実は 左大臣家の
まちがいです
加えて 第3巻の
62ページ 4コマ目
お姉さまとなって
ますが ただの
姉です
2版からは 直って
るハズですけど
初版をお持ちの
方は ごめんなさい
ね——♡
LOCKING HERSELF IN SANJOU MANOR TO PRAY FOR KIRA ?
TRUE, SHE'S PROMISED ME NOT TO BE RASH,
BUT A STRONG-WILLED LADY LIKE HER IS CAPABLE OF ANYTHING
HOWEVER,
I CAN'T FORBID HER NOT TO PRAY FOR KIRA
HONESTLY, WHAT I WANT MOST
IS FOR KIRA TO COME BACK AND LIVE BY MY SIDE

SANJOU MANOR, NORTH-EASTERN WING
WHAT?
HIME WON'T SEE ME?
YES
HE'S UNDERGOING A PRAYING RITUAL NEITHER YUMENO-SAMA HIS MOTHER, NOR EVEN HIS FATHER MAY SEE HIM
SCREECH
B-BUT I'M THAT CHILD'S MOTHER!!
my lady
BREAKING THE CHANT OF SUTRAS IS STRICYLY PROHIBITED
DO YOU KNOW WHO I AM?
SIGH
RUSTLE
SAYURI
IS SHE GONE YET?
YES, BUT THIS IS EXHAUSTING
SHE WENT INTO HYSTERICS, AS I SUSPECTED

YOU THINK?
YOUNG MASTER, YOU CAME UP WITH A BRILLIANT PLAN INDEED.


ANYTHING TO MAKE IT LOOK LIKE YOU'RE ALWAYS HERE, RIGHT?
EXACTLY.
AND LIGHT THE LAMPS IN THESE ROOMS AT NIGHT...
AFTER THIS, SAYURI WILL KEEP EATING MY DAILY MEAL.
DURING THE PRAYING RITUAL, I'M NOT SUPPOSED TO MEET ANYONE, SO WE CAN FEND OFF VISITORS WITH A GOOD EXCUSE.

WE'LL FOOL PEOPLE TO BELIEVE THAT I'M IN THE ROOM PRAYING WHEN, IN FACT, I'M OUT SEARCHING FOR NEE-SAMA,
LEAVING ONLY A HOLLOW FAÇADE.
THE "CICADA SHELL."

spy mode
that's a bit worrisome
I'LL REPORT ANY MATTERS, BIG OR SMALL. NOTHING WILL ESCAPE MY RADAR!!
LEAVE IT TO ME!
DON'T FORGET TO KEEP ME POSTED WHILE I'M TRAVELING.
ALSO, SAYURI, THE CROWN PRINCESS SHALL PASS TO YOU ANY NEWS SHE HEARS IN THE COURT
REST ASSURED THE CROWN PRINCESS WAS SO EAGER FOR HER MISSION
BY THE WAY, ARE YOU READY?
Y-YES
I'M ALL SET
IT'LL BE FINE!
OUR HAPPY FUTURE DEPENDS ON THE PERFECT COOPERATION OF THE THREE OF US
I'll do my best!
yes!

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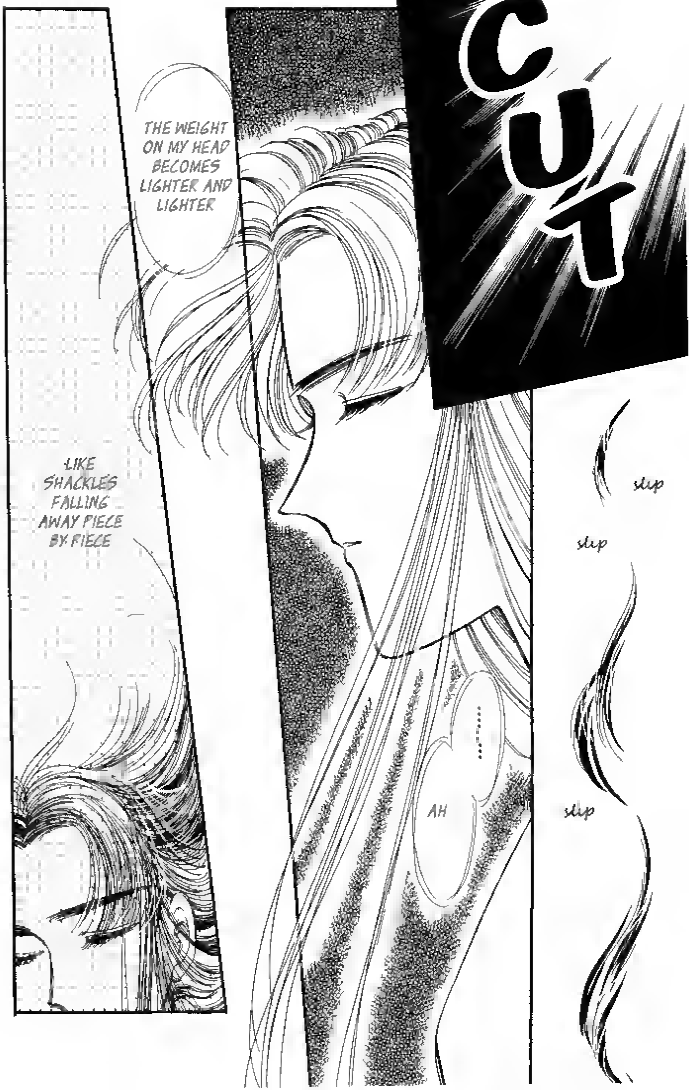
PLEASE!
ARE YOU REALLY GOING TO CUT IT OFF?
YOUR HAIR IS SO SHINY AND LOVELY...
I'M SO FED UP WITH PRETENDING TO BE A GIRL!
I'VE COUNTED THE NIGHTS AND DAYS TILL I COULD HAVE IT CUT OFF.
BESIDES, I CAN'T WANDER OUT SEARCHING FOR NEE-SAMA IN THIS STATE, CAN I?
I UNDER-STAND. BUT....
ARE YOU SURE YOU WON'T REGRET IT?
SAYURI!
YOU HAVEN'T ASKED PERMISSION FROM LADY YUMENO EITHER
.....
THEN...


CUT
THE WEIGHT ON MY HEAD BECOMES LIGHTER AND LIGHTER
LIKE SHACKLES FALLING AWAY PIECE BY PIECE
AH
slip
slip
slip

2

WITH EACH LOCK OF HAIR SHORN, I'M ONE STEP CLOSER TO MASCULINITY

STEP BY STEP,

I'M GOING BACK TO MY MALE ROLE!!

わたしは ちょんまげにかぎらず キャラにとりこまる習性が あって 描いてる時は完全にキャラに 同化しちゃってます

結婚の時は主上に 恋してるし 主上の時は 結婚もいとしく 思ってしまう

宰相中将の時なんか 好きな人が いっぱいになっちゃって もーたいへん

兵部卿宮に至っては あっはっはっはーと笑って ごまかしてしまおう

ZZZ

でも宮さんて とっても性格が おちゃめだって 思いません?

SANJOU MANOR,
HMM
SIR, THE MEDICINE IS READY
WHY THERE ARE LOUD NOISES COMING FROM THE EASTERN WING?
WHAT THE DEVIL IS HAPPENING AGAIN?
IT MUST BE LADY YUMENO, SIR
BECAUSE NAISHI NO KAMI... ER, THE YOUNG MASTER HAS RETURNED FROM THE PALACE.
DIDN'T ONE OF HIS MAIDS COME IN TO TELL YOU ABOUT HIS RETURN A LITTLE EARLIER?
YOUR MEMORY IS GETTING WORSE
THAT'S RIGHT
LADY KIRA, MY SON, IS BECOMING
SOON
an imperial consort
LIGHT
HEADED
MY CHEST HURTS AGAIN
UGH
FATHER

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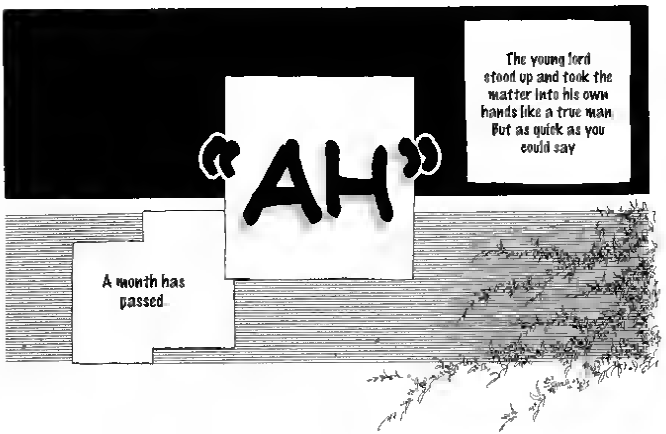
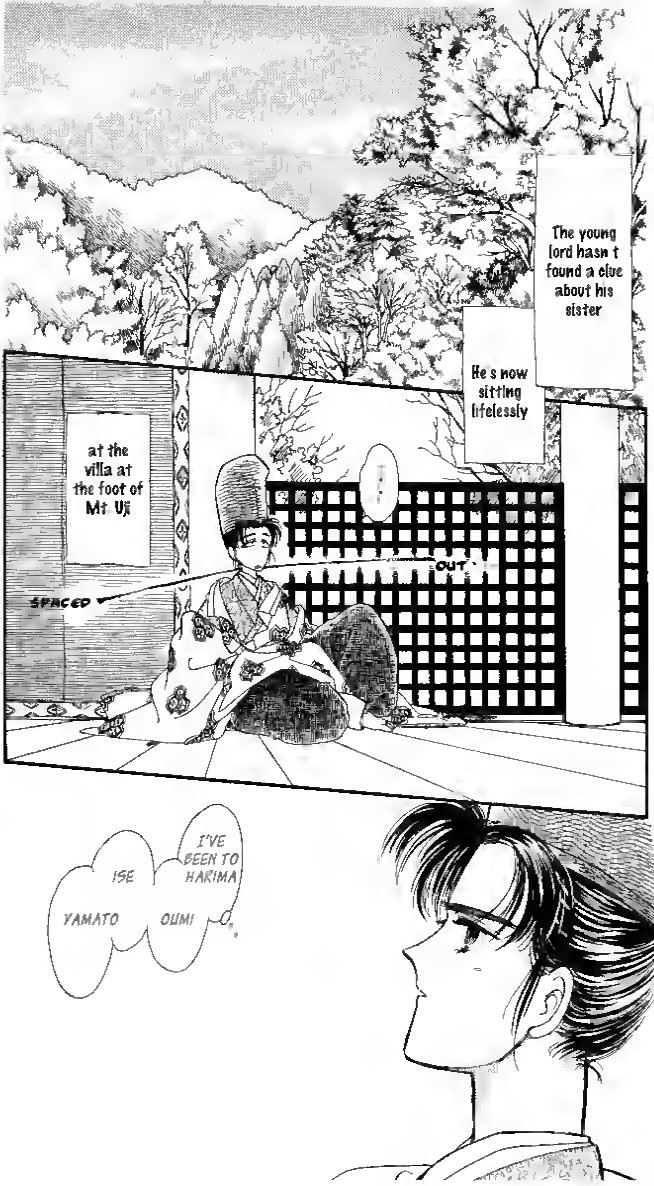
HAVE YOU NOT RECOVERED FROM YOUR ILLNESS?
...I'M DOOMED.
MY DAYS ARE DRAWING NEAR...
SEEING AN ILLUSION OF KIRA IS A BAD SIGN.
I'M NOT AN ILLUSION.
I'M NAISHI NO KAMI, THE BROTHER.
EHHHHH?!

I'M NOT LYING...
IT'S KIRA AT ANY ANGLE!!
B-B-BUT THIS IS KIRA!
A-AM I NOT DELUSIONAL?
YES.
ARE YOU...
REALLY THAT YOUNG SON OF MINE?
I AM
THE ONE WHO PAINTS
AT THE DROP OF A HAT...?
YES, THE LADY KIRA, THAT ONE.
DON'T "YES" ME?! WHAT WERE YOU THINKING?
CUTTING OFF YOUR HAIR TO A HIDEOUS LENGTH LIKE THIS!!
HOW ARE YOU GOING TO RETURN TO THE PALACE AT THIS STATE?!!
I'M NOT RETURNING.
WHAT ABOUT YOUR NAISHI NO KAMI POSITION?!
THE IMPERIAL CONSORT CEREMONY?
I'M A MAN I CAN'T BECOME AN IMPERIAL CONSORT NO MATTER WHAT.
SINCE I'M CORNERED, I MAY AS WELL RUN AWAY AND HIDE LIKE NEE-SAMA

I CAN'T RETURN TO THE PALACE EVEN IF I WANTED TO NOW
.....
SO I WILL SEARCH FOR NEE-SAMA
WE'LL DEAL WITH THE OTHER PROBLEMS LATER
BUT ..
INSTEAD OF PUTTING IT OFF DAY BY DAY,
IT'S BETTER WE START TACKLING THE PROBLEM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!
MY SON..
really, father
IMPRESSED
JUST LIKE YOUR SISTER
SO BRAVE AND STRONG
YOU HAVE CHANGED SO MUCH
CRISIS CALLS FOR A CHANGE

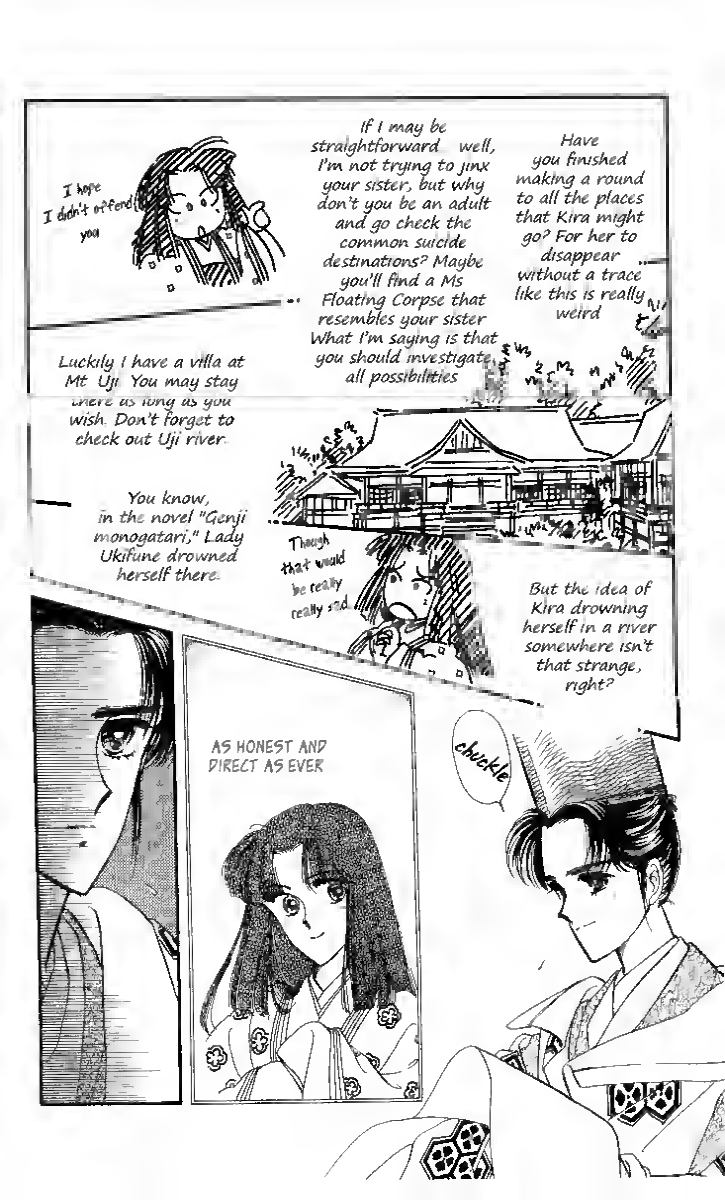
I MUST FIND NEE-SAMA AT ALL COSTS...!!
DURING THAT TIME,
PLEASE CO-OPERATE WITH SAYURI
DO NOT ALLOW ANY VISITOR INTO MY ROOM EVEN IF HE'S FROM THE EMPEROR HIMSELF
I MADE IT CLEAR THAT I'D FOLLOW A RELIGIOUS RITE AND CHANT 20 SUTRAS FOR NEE-SAMA'S SAFETY.
IT SHOULD FOOL THEM FOR A MONTH.
Therefore


The young lord stood up and took the matter into his own hands like a true man. But as quick as you could say
"AH"
A month has passed.


The young lord hasn't found a clue about his sister
He's now sitting lifelessly
at the villa at the foot of Mt Uji
SPACED
OUT
ISE
I'VE BEEN TO HARIMA
YAMATO
OUMI

EVEN YOSHINO AND HATSUSE, THE FOLKLAR SPOTS FOR THOSE WHO RUN AWAY TO SEEK A MONASTIC LIFE
BUT I'VE NOT FOUND A SINGLE TRACE OF HER
HOWEVER, MY FACE
LOOKS SO MUCH LIKE NEE-SAMA'S WE COULD PASS AS TWINS
IF I BECOME CARELESS ...
AH!
IS HE SADAIJIN'S SON?
ISN'T THAT LORD KIRA?!
DUMP
BECAUSE OF ALL THOSE DAYS SITTING PLACIDLY IN SANJOU MANSION WITHOUT EXERCISE
THIS ACTIVE LIFE HAS MADE MY BODY ACHE ALL OVER
OUCH..
sitting on a horse is exhausting too
crack
Ack!

RUSTLE
RUSTLE
SLUMP
IT ISN'T EASY AS I THOUGHT
THIS IS MANY TIMES MORE BACK-BREAKING THAN PLAYING A LADY IN THE PALACE
THREE DAYS AGO, A LETTER FROM THE CROWN PRINCESS ARRIVED
ADDRESSED TO ME AS I WAS SEARCHING FOR NEE-SAMA AT THE FOOT OF MT UJI
Naishi no kami
Howdy!


I hope I didn't offend you
If I may be straightforward... well, I'm not trying to jinx your sister, but why don't you be an adult and go check the common suicide destinations? Maybe you'll find a Ms Floating Corpse that resembles your sister. What I'm saying is that you should investigate all possibilities
Have you finished making a round to all the places that Kira might go? For her to disappear without a trace like this is really weird
Luckily I have a villa at Mt. Uji. You may stay there as long as you wish. Don't forget to check out Uji river.
You know, in the novel "Genji monogatari," Lady Ukifune drowned herself there.
Though that would be really really sad
But the idea of Kira drowning herself in a river somewhere isn't that strange, right?
AS HONEST AND DIRECT AS EVER
chuckle

BESIDES, UJI WAS AN EASY STOP ON MY WAY HOME...
BUT ON THE OTHER HAND, IT ISN'T ENTIRELY IMPOSSIBLE
BECAUSE OF AN UNREQUITED LOVE
I DIDN'T COME HERE SOLELY BECAUSE OF WHAT THE CROWN PRINCESS SUGGESTED
I FIND IT HARD TO BELIEVE THAT SOMEONE LIKE NEE-SAMA WOULD KILL HERSELF
FLAP
BUT IN THE END,
I'VE STILL FOUND NO TRACE OF HER, MS FLOATING CORPSE OR WHATEVER
The emperor
Me trying to act cheerful
I can't receive your letters and I can't see you I'm so very lonely
But if I look depressed, the emperor may demand Naishi no kami to come back from the chanting ritual So I have to keep my loneliness inside

Please come back soon I'm serious
SOB
SOB
I feel so sad that I cry
Whenever I think that Naishi no kami has to endure the hardships of a journey, which you've never experienced before
.....
IT'S BEEN A MONTH, HUH ?
He read this last [illegible] over and over
THAT INSUFFERABLE BRAT WAS CAPABLE OF CARING FOR ANYONE BUT HERSELF
I NEVER IMAGINED
WHY...
THAT WAS...

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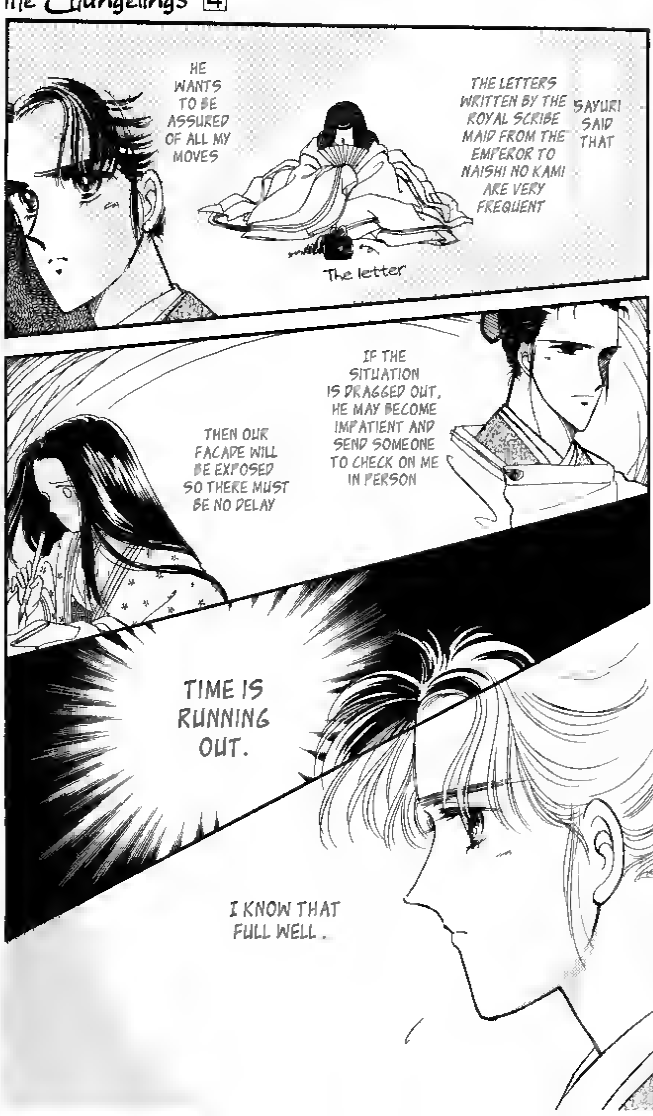
HE WANTS TO BE ASSURED OF ALL MY MOVES
THE LETTERS WRITTEN BY THE ROYAL SCRIBE MAID FROM THE EMPEROR TO NAISHI NO KAMI ARE VERY FREQUENT
SAYURI SAID THAT
The letter
IF THE SITUATION IS DRAGGED OUT, HE MAY BECOME IMPATIENT AND SEND SOMEONE TO CHECK ON ME IN PERSON
THEN OUR FACADE WILL BE EXPOSED SO THERE MUST BE NO DELAY
TIME IS RUNNING OUT.
I KNOW THAT FULL WELL.

WANDERING AROUND RANDOMLY ASKING PEOPLE WON'T WORK I HAVEN'T THE TIME NOR STRENGTH TO DO THAT
I HAVE NO IDEA WHERE ELSE TO SEARCH NEXT
BUT
BY THE TIME YOU COME BACK, THESE DELICIOUS FISH DISHES WILL BE READY FOR YOU TOO
.....
THE FLOWERS IN BLOOM WILL CHEER YOU UP
YOU LOOK SO BLUE WHY DON'T YOU GO OUT FOR A WALK AND GET SOME FRESH AIR?
MY LORD,
SIR...

THANKS I'LL DO THAT.
SOME ONE, COME WITH ME ..
I DRAGGED THESE TWO WITH ME OUT OF THE BLUE
POOR guys
RIGHT
SNORE
SNORE
Z.ZZZ
Z.ZZZ
I'LL GO ALONE
I'm a man after all
IT WAS A TOUGH JOURNEY THEY HAD TO CARRY MY BELONGINGS AND TRAVEL ON FOOT

THERE SHOULD BE SOME MONASTERY THAT I CAN ASK FOR INFORMATION AROUND HERE
I WOULD HAVE NEVER HAD A CHANCE TO SEE SCENERY AS BEAUTIFUL AS THIS
IF I WAS STILL CONFINED AT HOME OR IN THE PALACE AS A LADY,
I'D LOVE TO TAKE HER HERE SOMEDAY ...
SHE'D DEFINITELY LIKE IT
HAS THE CROWN PRINCESS EVER COME TO UJI I WONDER?

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wide eyed
Yeah.
IT SEEMS
THEY'RE QUARRELING OVER SOMETHING
HEH! AND YOU CALL THIS SALT?!
HALF OF THIS IS SAND.
I TRIED TO HELP YOU BY BARTERING MY YAMS AND SALT IN EXCHANGE FOR THOSE SCRAWNY FISH OF YOURS!
YET YOU...!
THAT ALL YOU COULD DIG UP WERE THESE PITIFUL YAMS? YAM GIRL!
AND YOU CALL THIS FEEBLE THING A YAM?
WOULD YOU CARE TO HUMOR ME WITH HOW IT IS
YAM GIRL?!
DO THEY HAVE TO ARGUE SO LOUDLY OVER SUCH LITTLE THING ?
YAM-HEAD?!
OR PERHAPS, IN UJI
THEY USE SAND FOR SALT?! HUH?! YOU YAM-HEAD!
It's a mracle it's still standing.
CAN'T BE A CHEERFUL PERSON
A PERSON LIVING IN A SHACK LIKE THIS
THEN AGAIN,

YOU'RE JUST THAT BALDIE MONK'S WHORE!!
YOU VAGRANT!
YOU THINK YOU CAN BE ARROGANT JUST BECAUSE THE GUYS AROUND HERE ARE ALL CRAZY ABOUT YOU?
HMPH!
IS YOUR MOUTH SO FOUL BECAUSE YOU ONLY CONSUME FILTHY THINGS? VILE WENCH!
NOW YOU CALL ME TRAMP TOO?!
WHY DON'T YOU FISH FOR SOME MEN AND STRIP THEM THEIR MONEY, LIKE YOUR TRUE CHARACTER IS.
SHAMELESS TRAMP!!
YOU CAN BARELY CATCH ENOUGH FISH TO GET BY FOR A DAY!
THAT'S RIGHT!
W-WHORE?!
Vile Wench?
SFX SLAP
I'M GOING TO CLOSE THAT STINKY MOUTH OF YOURS RIGHT NOW!
WHA-?!
THUD
!!
HUH?

DON'T EVER LET ME SEE YOU AROUND HERE AGAIN!!
SERVES YOU RIGHT, YAM GIRL!
WAHHHH!
HMPH!
Y-
YOU-
I CAN'T SEE HER FACE
BUT IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE SHE BELONGS TO THIS SHABBY PLACE
SHE MAY WEAR RAGS
RUSTLE
HOWEVER
THE WAY SHE HOLDS HERSELF HAS AN ELEGANCE
WHAT KIND OF FISHER-WOMAN IS SHE?
SO ROUGH
WHO'S THAT?

AH
AHHH...!
NEE-SAMA!

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I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN MY SISTER IS MADE OF STEKNER STUFF THAN COMMITTING SUICIDE
DON'T JUST STAND HERE TALKING COME INSIDE
I'LL MAKE SOME YAM PORRIDGE
I make good use of the yam that girl sent
AH, I SEE...
SO THE 3RD LADY FINALLY GOT THE HAPPY LIFE SHE DESERVED
I HEARD SHE GAVE BIRTH TO A DAUGHTER.
YES, AND THERE'S BEEN NO MORE FLIRTATIOUS GOSSIP ABOUT SAISHOU NO CHUUJOU SINCE
THE RAKE HAS REFORMED

COME TO THINK OF IT,
Want seconds?
?
AND SAISHOU NO CHUUJOU LAYING OFF GIRLS IS THE GREATEST NEWS
I WAS SO WORRIED ABOUT THE 3RD LADY
THAT'S GOOD TO HEAR
FROM THE QUARREL I WITNESSED EARLIER AND HER CURRENT STATE OF LIVING,
NO WONDER NO BODY FOUND A TRACE OF KIRA NO CHUUJOU SHE DOESN'T RESEMBLE HER OLD LOOKS AT ALL
SHE PLAYS THE FISHER-WOMAN'S ROLE FLAWLESSLY
NEE-SAMA
WHAT?
WHAT EXACTLY MADE YOU RUN AWAY?
EH?!

THAT'S THE FIRST THING WE'LL TALK ABOUT.
BECAUSE I COULDN'T STAY IF I HAD A BABY.
AH,
DON'T AHAHAHA ME!
AHA-HAHA-HAHA
HAVE YOU ANY IDEA HOW WORRIED WE WERE?!!
EH?
I THOU-GHT
I COULDN'T REMAIN IN THE CAPITAL ANY LONGER.
SO I RAN AWAY TO HIDE HERE
E-E..
BABYYYY ?!
CAPTION. BABYY?

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TH-THAT ANIMAL
HE WASN'T SATISFIED WITH JUST THE OLD LADY, HUH?
NOW EVEN NEE-SAMA ...!!
SAISHOU NO CHUUJOU?!
WITH WHOM ?!!
W-WITH ...
SAISHOU NO CHUUJOU BUT UHH...
CLATTER
THAT BASTARD
I'M GOING TO CUT HIM INTO PIECES!!
Falls over
BUT I MISUNDERSTOOD EVERYTHING

M-
MISUNDER-STOOD...?
COME ON, NEE-SAMA...
SO HE KNEW ABOUT YOUR TRUE GENDER
DIDN'T SAISHOU NO CHUUJOU DO SOMETHING THAT COULD HAVE MADE YOU PREGNANT?!
AND TRIED TO BLACKMAIL YOU, RIGHT?
YES, THAT
WAS WHAT I MISUNDERSTOOD
HEH?
WELL, HE JUST PRESSED HIS LIPS AGAINST MINE, THAT'S ALL
SURELY...
SURELY NEE-SAMA COULDN'T POSSIBLY THINK A BABY WOULD BE BORN BY THAT ACTIVITY ALONE...?

I SAW THEM PUT THEIR LIPS TO EACH OTHER SO SNUGGLY
WHEN SAISHOU NO CHUUJOU SECRETLY MET WITH THE 3RD LADY,
THAT SUPER AMBIGUOUS EXPLANATION OF YOURS THAT SAID ONE MAY GET PREGNANT IF A PART OF A MAN WAS PRESSED CLOSELY TO THAT OF A WOMAN
IT WAS YOUR FAULT!
SO I BELIEVED THAT WAS THE METHOD OF MAKING A BABY.
AT THAT TIME I WAS FIRMLY CONVINCED THAT I, TOO, WOULD BECOME PREGNANT.
HE DIDN'T CARE IF IT WAS A QUEER KIND OF LOVE AND SUDDENLY JUMPED ONTO ME AND PRESSED HIS LIPS AGAINST MINE
WHEN SAISHOU NO CHUUJOU ANNOUNCED THAT
NO MATTER HOW AMBIGUOUS MY EXPLANATION WAS
REALLY
I WAS WORRIED TO DEATH

THEN AGAIN THINGS THAT ONE THOUGHT COULD NEVER HAPPEN IN REAL LIFE
SOMETIMES ACTUALLY DO AND ARE FAR MORE SERIOUS THAN ONE COULD IMAGINE
gives me a head-ache
YORATCH YORATCH
I KNEW IT WAS TOO WEIRD FOR NEE-SAMA TO DISAPPEAR BECAUSE OF AN UNREQUITED LOVE FOR THE EMPEROR
irritatingly happy and shiny
?
HOW DID SHE SURVIVE A COURTIER'S LIFE?
IS THERE ANYONE WHO WOULD BELIEVE THAT A FEW HARMLESS KISSES WOULD IMPREGNATE HER?
where these scandalous affairs are the favorite topics among court people
AND SINCE I HAD NOTHING TO DO, AS I WAS SITTING ON UJI RIVERBANK AND LETTING TIME GO BY.
I RAN AWAY, AIMLESSLY
out
spaced
SO?
AND RAN ALL THE WAY TO UJI?
YOU MIS-UNDERSTOOD
YEAH

SFX GRAB
DON'T DO SOMETHING STUPID, YOUNG MAN!!
?!
Dried boiled nce travelers food
I SHOULD HAVE BROUGHT SOME KARE!!*
growl growl
SIGH
I'M STARVED
stomach growl
IF YOU DON'T VALUE YOUR OWN LIFE, THE BUDDHA CAN'T BESTOW HIS MERCY TO YOU!
TH-
THAT'S NOT IT...
Wah, wah!
YOU'RE STILL YOUNG AND STRONG. IT'S A WASTE TO THROW YOUR LIFE AWAY HERE. I WON'T LET YOU DIE!!
NO! I SHALL NOT LET YOU DO THAT!
PERVERT!!
WH-WHAT'RE YOU DOING? RELEASE ME!!
SPLASH!
NO!!
OH?
YOU WEREN'T TRYING TO KILL YOURSELF?

ha ha ha ha
DON'T SAY SOMETHING SO RIDICULOUS
THERE WAS NO WAY YOU CAME TO UJI PURPOSELY TO DIE
I KNEW IT
IT WAS IN THE MIDDLE OF THE WINTER I THOUGHT MY HEART HAD FROZEN AND STOPPED BEATING
I GUESS THE JOB FITS A STRONG, WILLFUL PERSON LIKE YOU PERFECTLY
A MERCHANT . WELL,
AND LIVE QUIETLY, JUST THE TWO OF US MAYBE I WOULD MAKE SOME CRAFTS AND DO TRADE
I INTENDED TO HAVE A BABY IN SOME FARAWAY PLACE
THEN WHY DIDN'T YOU GO BACK TO THE CAPITAL?!
Eh?
THAT I'D MISUNDERSTOOD ABOUT BABY MAKING
You had it all wrong
THEN I KNEW
I WAS CARRIED AWAY AND ENDED UP TELLING HIM EVERYTHING
THAT MONK FELT GUILTY FOR MISTAKING ME AS SUICIDAL HE TOOK GREAT CARE OF ME AND ASKED A LOT OF QUESTIONS
hm hm

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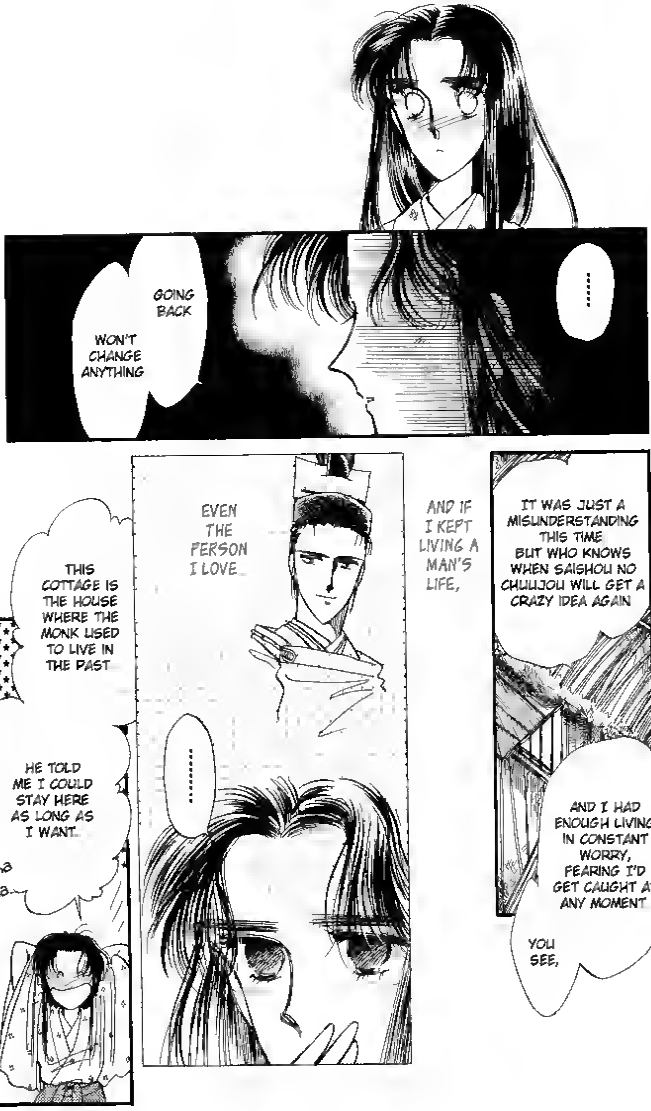
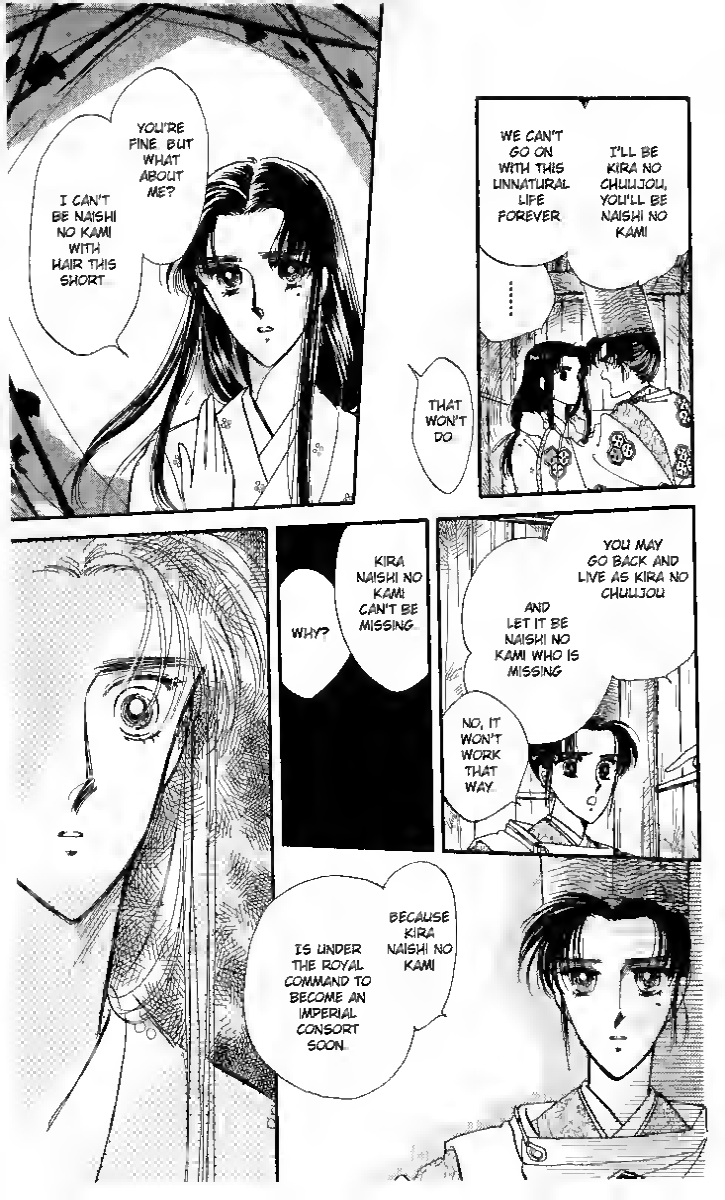

.....
GOING BACK
WON'T CHANGE ANYTHING
IT WAS JUST A MISUNDERSTANDING THIS TIME
BUT WHO KNOWS WHEN SAISHOU NO CHUUJOU WILL GET A CRAZY IDEA AGAIN
AND IF I KEPT LIVING A MAN'S LIFE,
EVEN THE PERSON I LOVE...
.....
AND I HAD ENOUGH LIVING IN CONSTANT WORRY, FEARING I'D GET CAUGHT AT ANY MOMENT
YOU SEE,
THIS COTTAGE IS THE HOUSE WHERE THE MONK USED TO LIVE IN THE PAST
HE TOLD ME I COULD STAY HERE AS LONG AS I WANT
aha ha~

BUT YOU CAN'T LIVE LIKE THIS FOREVER. IT'S IMPOSSIBLE.
YOU KNOW, UJI IS FAMOUS FOR CATCHING FISH WITH WICKERWORK. BECAUSE THERE ARE NEVER ENOUGH FISHERMEN, FISH HAVE A GREAT VALUE HERE. SO I'VE MANAGED TO GET BY WITHOUT A PROBLEM
I GUESS SO.
BUT I HAVE NO CHOICE.
GOING BACK TO BE KIRA NO CHUUJOU IS OUT OF THE QUESTION.
IN THAT CASE!
LET'S MAKE A SWITCH.


I'LL BE KIRA NO CHUUJOU, YOU'LL BE NAISHI NO KAMI
WE CAN'T GO ON WITH THIS UNNATURAL LIFE FOREVER
.....
THAT WON'T DO
YOU'RE FINE BUT WHAT ABOUT ME?
I CAN'T BE NAISHI NO KAMI WITH HAIR THIS SHORT
YOU MAY GO BACK AND LIVE AS KIRA NO CHUUJOU
AND LET IT BE NAISHI NO KAMI WHO IS MISSING
NO, IT WON'T WORK THAT WAY.
KIRA NAISHI NO KAMI CAN'T BE MISSING
WHY?
BECAUSE KIRA NAISHI NO KAMI
IS UNDER THE ROYAL COMMAND TO BECOME AN IMPERIAL CONSORT SOON.

THE EMP-EROR
IF SHE DISAPPEARS BEFORE THE CEREMONY,
FATHER WON'T BE ALLOWED TO KEEP HIS HEAD.
IMPERIAL CONSORT ...?!
SO THIS WAS HIS REAL INTENTION FROM THE BEGINNING?!
.....
Let's g... cozy
ONCE I WAS GONE, HE DIDN'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT ANYONE GETTING IN HIS WAY.
FOR THE SAKE OF THE CROWN PRINCESS, MY ASS. HE ACTUALLY AIMED FOR MY BROTHER FROM THE START.
WHILE FOR ME, NOT A DAY WENT BY THAT I DIDN'T THINK OF HIM.
THAT ....
THAT INCONSI-DERATE JERK!!

T-
THAT .
PERVERTED, IMMORAL EMPEROR
TAKEMOLE
I'M NOT GOING TO CARE FOR HIM ANYMORE ...!
HE DIDN'T HESITATE TO SHOW HIS TRUE COLORS ONCE I WAS OUT OF THE PICTURE!!
OH, I FORGOT TO MENTION THAT
THE EMPEROR TRIED SO HARD TO TALK ME INTO FEELING SORRY FOR HIM
TELLING ME A STORY OF A PURE, INNOCENT BEAUTY HE ONCE MET,
AND WAS SO DESPERATE TO SEE AGAIN
WHEN HE LEARNED THAT LORD KIRA RESEMBLED THAT LADY VERY MUCH, HE INSTANTLY SPED UP HIS GENPUKU AND HAD HIM ENLISTED
EH?!

I BELIEVE HE MET HER AT KITASAGA HE MADE IT RATHER VAGUE.
BUT THE POINT IS THAT THE LADY, WHO HE FELL IN LOVE WITH AT FIRST SIGHT,
AND LORD KIRA WERE SO MUCH ALIKE THAT HE UNINTENTIONALLY
LOOKED AT KIRA WITH THE EYES OF A MAN LOOKING AT A WOMAN
THAT WAS...
THAT WAS... MY.
STORY.?
OUR MEETING AT KITASAGA THAT TIME...
THAT I DO NOT KNOW.
BUT WHAT I'M CERTAIN OF IS THAT THE WOMAN HE LOVES WASN'T ME.
Because I've never gone to Kitasaga

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HOW COULD I, IN THAT STATE, BE THE EMPEROR'S DREAM GIRL?
FROM WHAT THE CROWN PRINCESS TOLD ME,
SHE WAS SO MUCH HIS TYPE AND HE CALLED HER THE LADY OF KITASAGA
THE EMPEROR MET THAT INNOCENT BEAUTY ABOUT 3 YEARS AGO.
A PURE, INNOCENT BEAUTY ?
BUT
THAT GIRL MUST BE....
ME... FOR SURE.
I FELL IN LOVE THE MINUTE I LAID EYES UPON HER
SHE'S DEFINITELY MY DREAM GIRL.

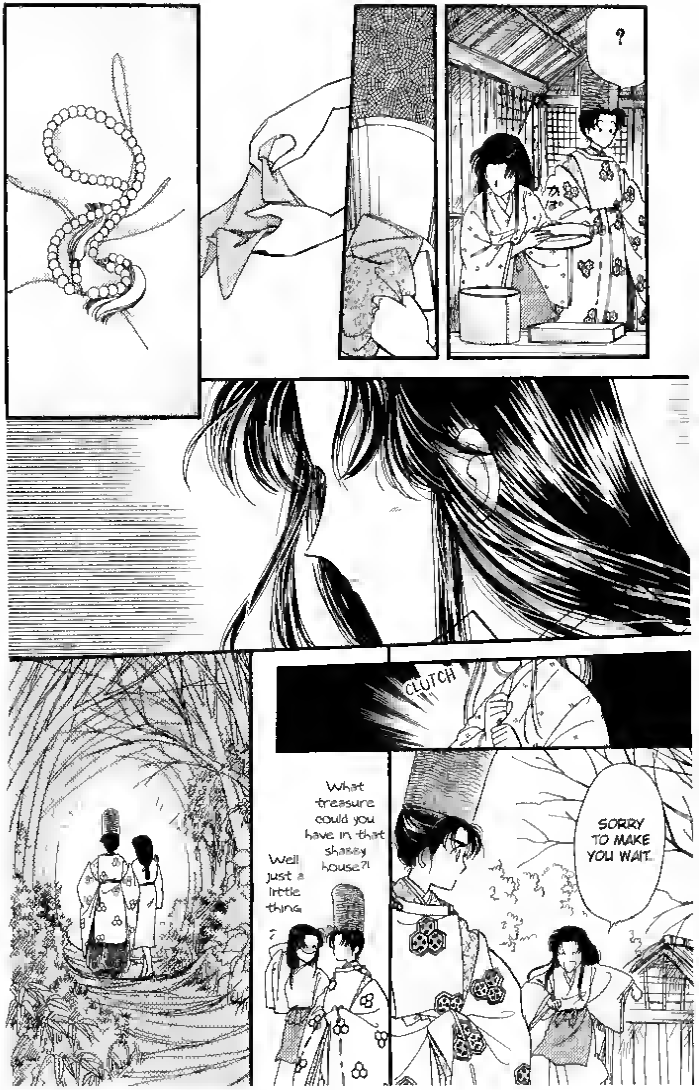
.....
IT MEANS THAT THE EMPEROR..
HAS BEEN IN LOVE WITH ME ALL THIS TIME?
あああ

MY LADY OF KITA-SAGA

SFX BLUSH

M-MY..
I SEE..
HE WANTED TO MAKE MY BROTHER HIS CONSORT BECAUSE WE RESEMBLE EACH OTHER?
Actually it was me who tried to convince him that my brother was the lady he met that time!

SO,
I'M SURE NEE-SAMA AGREES
THAT SWITCHING THE ROLES IS THE BEST SOLUTION
WELL, MAYBE...
BUT WHAT ABOUT MY HAIR?
WHO KNOWS HOW LONG IT'LL TAKE TO GROW TO THE LENGTH THAT YOU USED TO HAVE
IT'S NOT VERY COMFORTABLE HERE
So many insects
Sissy
scratch scratch
WE'LL TAKE CARE OF THAT PROBLEM LATER
LET'S GO BACK TO THE MOUNTAIN VILLA AND CAREFULLY TALK THIS THROUGH
OH, HOLD ON
THE TRAIL WILL BE HARD TO WALK AFTER DARK. LET'S GO.

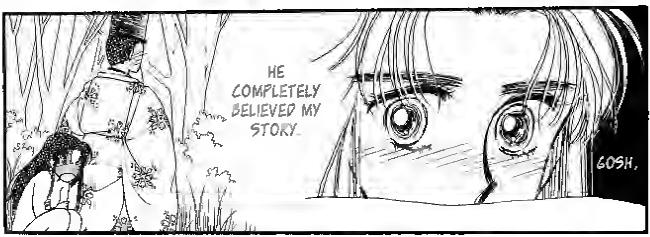

?
CLUTCH
SORRY TO MAKE YOU WAIT.
What treasure could you have in that shabby house?!
Well just a little thing.

THE MOUNTAIN VILLA
AH, MY LORD!
WE WERE WORRIED.
WHERE DID YOU GO TO? THERE WAS A LETTER FROM THE CAPITAL...
COME THIS WAY
?
IS THAT SO?
THANK YOU. SORRY FOR GOING OUT ALONE.
COME ON,
THE YOUNG MASTER MUST BE OUT HIS MIND
PICKING UP A FILTHY STRAY LIKE THAT.
Oh, to be young again.
HE HASN'T TOUCHED A WOMAN FOR A MONTH.
CHUCKLE
She may dress in rags but her skin and profile are lovely. He's got discerning eyes.

WOW
THIS VILLA IS CLASSY
BUT, OUR FAMILY HAS NO VILLA AT UJI, AS I RECALL.
THE CROWN PRINCESS LENT IT TO ME
THE CROWN PRINCESS?
YOU GUYS MUST BE GETTING ALONG NICELY
OH, HUSH
NUDGE NUDGE
HERE, THE CROWN PRINCESS'S LETTER
SHE'S COME UP WITH A PLAN
TO HAVE ME SECRETLY SWITCH BACK TO A MAN'S ROLE.
FLAP

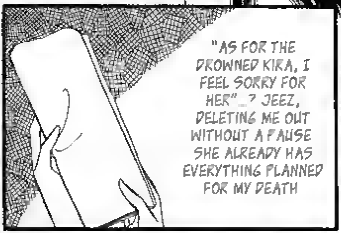
Therefore, he said he was afraid that Naishi no kami might be unhappy about being promoted to an imperial consort and do something stupid

Anyway, time has run out The emperor is getting suspicious Even for 20 sutra, this has been already too long You know he met the lady of Kitasaga (who he thought was you) when she was about to drown herself, because she was about to be forced into an arranged marriage



?
As a result, he now insisted on calling Naishi no kami back from her praying ritual immediately
I tried to hold him down as well as I could
To solve the problem, I've come up with a plot that Kira no chuujou and I were always in love with each other
When I learn that someone has seen Lord Kira I go out bracing the spring thunder storm to see Kira, my lover, not caring what the public would say
After things ended well for the 3rd lady and his best friend, Saishou no chuujou, he decides to become a monk. He is caught sneaking into the court to see me one last time
But I'm a crown princess, and he already has a wife
When his wife had an affair with another man, he lost his faith in family life and ran away
As long as I can have my love, I don't care if I die
This girl reads too many novels.
ha ha
See? My story is much better than those in novels, right?

If I go that far, people will surely accept our relationship as easily as the 3rd lady's
You see you will naturally forfeit your plan to become a monk because you want to be with me
When that happens, I'll be released from the crown princess title because of impropriety which is what I've been dying to do anyway And in your case, the worst punishment would be no more than a period of suspension.
The thought of everything!


"AS FOR THE DROWNED KIRA, I FEEL SORRY FOR HER"...? JEEZ, DELETING ME OUT WITHOUT A FAUSE SHE ALREADY HAS EVERYTHING PLANNED FOR MY DEATH

We really have no time left. You need to come back as quickly as possible so that we can go over the plan in detail together with Sayuri.

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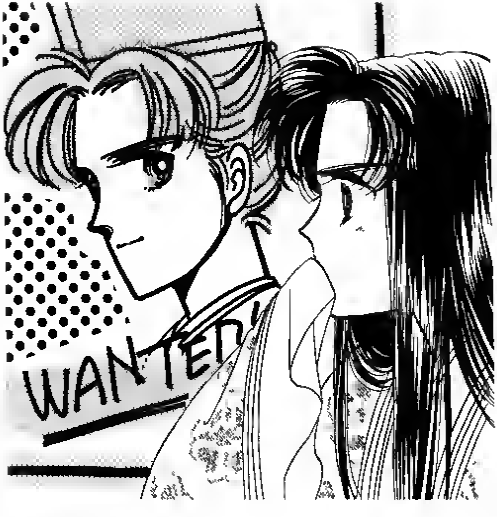
I'M A WOMAN IN LOVE TOO
I NEED TO GET OUT OF THIS MESS!
I KNOW THAT..
SHE JUST THINKS OF EVERYTHING FOR MY BEST INTEREST
AWW, I'M SURE SHE MEANT NO HARM
BUT THE EMPEROR HAPPENED TO GET THE STRANGEST IDEA AND NOW HE'S WORRIED
I THOUGHT WE'D HAVE MORE TIME TO COME UP WITH A PLAN.
.....
STRANGEST IDEA..?
NO IF HE REALLY BELIEVED MY NONSENSICAL CRAP,
HIS "LADY OF KITASAGA" IS TOTALLY CAPABLE OF DOING THE MOST RECKLESS THING

ALL RIGHT!!
YEAH! I'VE GOT TO FIND A WAY NO MATTER WHAT!
THERE MUST BE A WAY.
FLINCH
NEE-SAMA?
?
WE HAVE NOTHING MORE TO LOSE ANYWAY I'VE BRACED FOR THE WORST!!
What was that? You suddenly
LEAVE IT TO ME. COME, LEND ME YOUR EARS!
YANK
WHISPER
WHISPER
WHISPER
WHISPER
WHISPER
.....
Hence, in the warm night of spring
At the villa by the foot of Uji mountain,
The two siblings discussed the plan to switch back to each s original gender roles
SSH. SSH!
WAAIT!!


WANTED

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Credits

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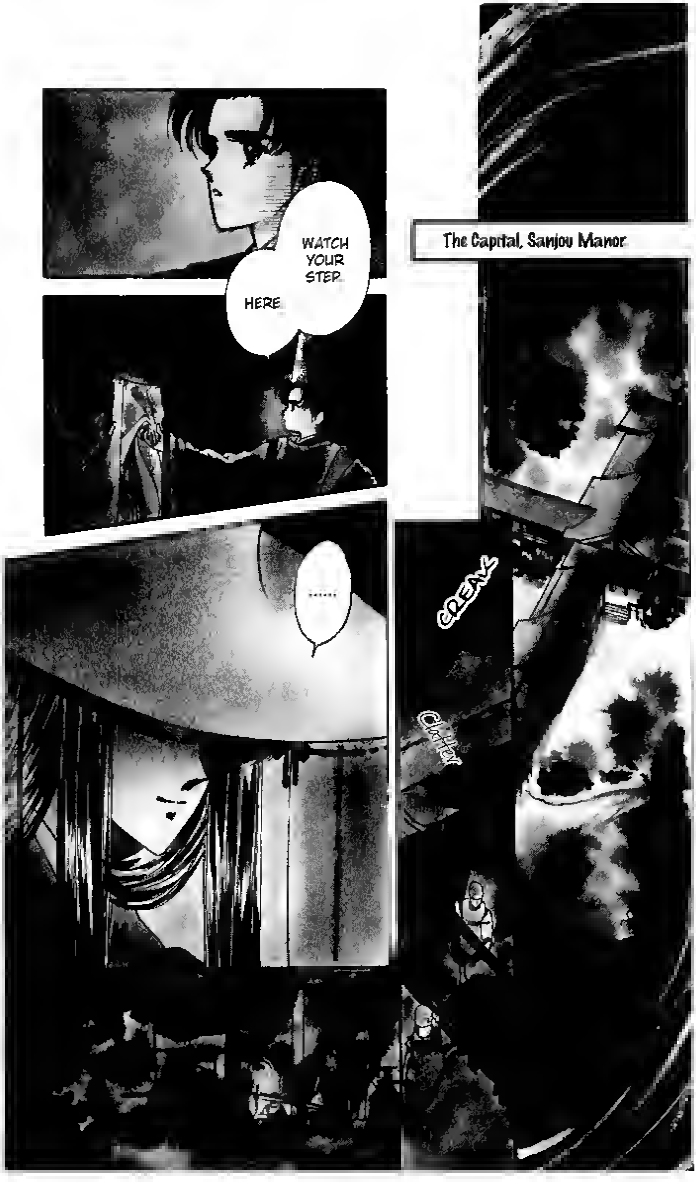
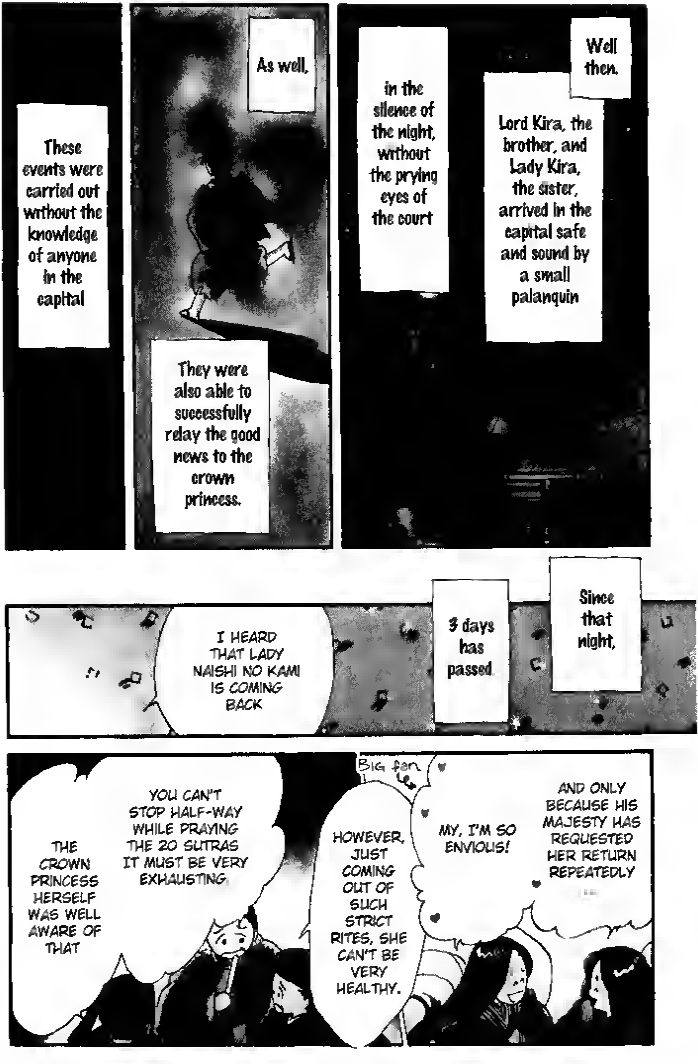

The Capital, Sanjou Manor
WATCH YOUR STEP.
HERE.
.....
CREAK
Clatter


These events were carried out without the knowledge of anyone in the capital
As well,
They were also able to successfully relay the good news to the crown princess.
in the silence of the night, without the prying eyes of the court
Well then.
Lord Kira, the brother, and Lady Kira, the sister, arrived in the capital safe and sound by a small palanquin
Since that night,
3 days has passed
I HEARD THAT LADY NAISHI NO KAMI IS COMING BACK
THE CROWN PRINCESS HERSELF WAS WELL AWARE OF THAT
YOU CAN'T STOP HALF-WAY WHILE PRAYING THE 20 SUTRAS IT MUST BE VERY EXHAUSTING.
HOWEVER, JUST COMING OUT OF SUCH STRICT RITES, SHE CAN'T BE VERY HEALTHY.
Big fan
MY, I'M SO ENVIOUS!
AND ONLY BECAUSE HIS MAJESTY HAS REQUESTED HER RETURN REPEATEDLY

THAT'S WHY SHE TRIED TO HOLD HIM OFF SO MANY TIMES
FINALLY, LADY NAISHI NO KAMI HAS COME BACK TO TAKE HER POST IN THE PALACE
Good news good news
yuya
NAISHI NO KAMI...

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I DO CARE FOR HER VERY MUCH
AND I DIDN'T WISH TO BE INCONSIDERATE BY RUSHING HER BACK FROM HER PRAYERS.
BUT IT HAD BEEN FAR TOO LONG, I JUST COULDN'T HELP IT
NOT AT ALL!
YOUR MAJESTY DID THE WISEST THING. FOR THE SAKE OF THE FUTURE IMPERIAL CONSORT'S WELL-BEING, SHE SHOULDN'T KEEP CONFINING HERSELF,
CHANTING SUTRAS AND ENDANGERING HER HEALTH!
BESIDES,
PLEASE FORGIVE MY IMPERTINENCE.
BUT THE CHANCE OF FINDING KIRA NO CHUUJOU IS VERY SLIM...

FOR NAISHI NO KAMI, INSTEAD OF CLINGING TO HOPELESS PRAYER, IT'S BETTER SHE COME BACK AND TRY TO FORGET THINGS
AT LEAST THERE WILL BE MANY PEOPLE AROUND HER TO CHEER HER UP
SLIM CHANCES OF FINDING KIRA
YES, THAT WAS MY REASON
FOR TRYING TO MAKE HER AN IMPERIAL CONSORT
AS WELL AS RUSHING HER BACK
TO THE EXTENT THAT I FORCED HER TO ABANDON THE PRAYERS FOR KIRA
I FEEL THAT SHE'LL NEVER GIVE UP HER HOPE NO MATTER WHAT
AND ANOTHER PERSON WHO WON'T BE ABLE TO FORGET IS PROBABLY

chatter chatter
?
Please allow me to attend the emperor immediately.
MYSELF
Chatter
AH
YOUR MAJESTY !!
WHAT'S GOING ON?
THESE NOISES!

IT'S BECAUSE OF WHAT LADY NAISHI NO KAMI DID.
THE CROWN PRINCESS... THE CROWN PRINCESS BECAME...
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN TO THE CROWN PRINCESS?
YOUR MAJESTY...
MY LADY HAS GONE HYSTERICAL. NO ONE IS ABLE TO CALM HER DOWN. OH LORD, WHAT ARE WE TO DO?
THE CROWN PRINCESS'S CLOSEST HANDMAID, SANMI NO TSUBONE ?
NAISHI NO KAMI DID WHAT?

Bang!
WHAT DID NAISHI NO KAMI DO?!
SANMI !!
I. . . I CAN'T BRING MYSELF TO SAY IT, SIR. . . !
SHE MUST BE DECEIVED BY AN EVIL SPIRIT.
HOW ELSE COULD SOMETHING SO TERRIBLE HAPPEN?!
TO NASHITSUBO!!
Ah!
YOUR MAJESTY!!! WHERE'RE YOU GOING?
Turn

WHAT EXACTLY
HAPPENED TO NAISHI NO KAMI?!!
Nashitsubo Manor
FLAP
YOUR MAJESTY ...!
CROWN PRINCESS!
CROWN PRINCESS, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!!

Naishi no kami!!
CROWN PRINCESS...?!
NAISHI NO KAMI HAD THE CHANCE TO DO THAT..!!
BECAUSE...
I WAS TOO CARELESS!
Nnnnn!
Sniffle
Sniffle
MY SISTER, CALM DOWN
TELL ME EXACTLY WHAT HAPPENED TO NAISHI NO KAMI..
NAISHI NO KAMI SAID THAT..
SHE WOULD NOT BECOME AN IMPERIAL CONSORT, NO MATTER WHAT...
AND WOULD TAKE UP THE VEIL.

SHE ALREADY CUT OFF HER HAIR.
CUT OFF HER HAIR...?!

I COULDN'T PREVENT IT IN TIME.
SHE CUT IT OFF BY HERSELF, FEARING WE WOULD STOP HER...
RIGHT NOW SHE IS LOCKING HERSELF IN SENYOUDEN WITH SAYURI AND THE MAIDS GUARDING HER.
SHE SEEMS VERY UPSET..
AS IF SHE COULD END HER LIFE AT ANY MOMENT
WE..
WE DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO ANYMORE!
I DON'T WANT NAISHI NO KAMI TO BECOME A NUN...!!
Sob Sob Sob
.....
Pat

I'LL NOT LET YOU BECOME A NUN...!!
YOUR MAJESTY...
LISTEN TO ME, CROWN PRINCESS
DO NOT LET ANYONE ELSE KNOW ABOUT THIS
I'LL GO TO SEE NAISHI NO KAMI RIGHT NOW...!
NAISHI NO KAMI.
.....
Giggle.
Soaked cotton

Seiryouden
Turn
...
HOW TERRIBLE...
I CAN'T BELIEVE WHAT HAS HAPPENED
HOW COULD ...
MY LADY CUT OFF HER HAIR LIKE THAT...?
OHHH ...
Ah,
YOUR MAJESTY...
PLEASE FORGIVE ME...!
BUT NAISHI NO KAMI
IS STILL INSIDE
I KNOW
BUT THIS IS AN EMERGENCY!
AH
YOUR MAJESTY!
MAJESTY!!

Flap
NAISHI NO KAMI

MY LADY OF KITASAGA
THIS IS
YES
SHE IS INDEED A FIERY AND PASSIONATE WOMAN....!!
THE ONE WHO CHOSE TO END HER LIFE RATHER THAN MARRYING SOMEONE SHE DIDN'T LOVE.
THIS TIME SHE'S DETERMINED TO BECOME A NUN AND EVEN CUT HER BEAUTIFUL BLACK HAIR SHORT WITHOUT HESITATION.
YOUR MAJESTY
BA DU MO
THINK OF HOW YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER WILL FEEL!
SUCH A RECKLESS ACT...
YOU SHOULD HAVE IT DISCUSSED WITH ME BEFORE DOING THIS...!
...NAISHI NO KAMI,
HOW
COULD YOU ...?

YES,
I'VE HEARD IT MANY TIMES
BUT SHE WAS A LADY OF SO FEW WORDS THAT I COULDN'T REMEMBER HER VOICE
BUT THIS IS
NAISHI NO KAMI'S VOICE ?
FOR ME
THERE WAS NO OTHER WAY...
SO MUCH LIKE KIRA'S VOICE...!!

INDEED, SIRE.
I DO HAVE THAT MAN
DO YOU SO DESPISE BEING AN IMPERIAL CONSORT?
WHY
YOU COULDN'T ALREADY HAVE A MAN YOU FANCY, COULD YOU. .?
YOU HAVE A MAN YOU LOVE .?
YES
...

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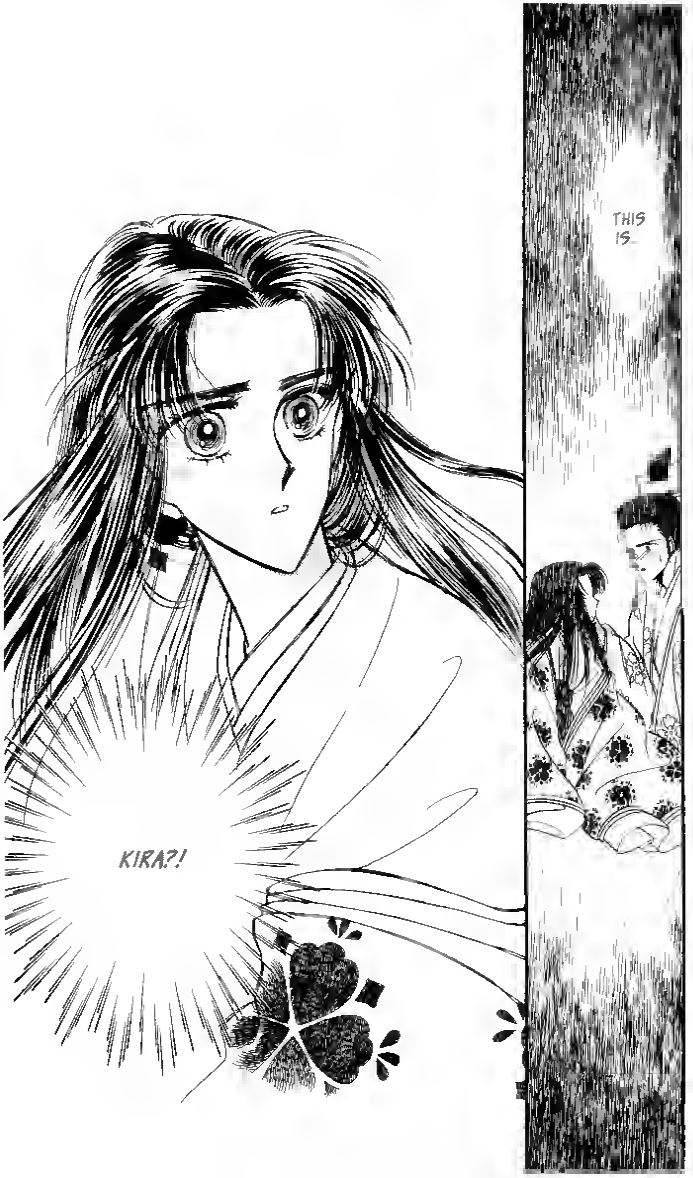
I LEARNED THAT
BEFORE YOUR ENTERING THE COURT, YOU NEVER STEPPED A FOOT OUT OF YOUR HOUSE
HOW IS IT POSSIBLE THAT YOU HAVE MET SUCH A MAN?

RESORTING TO A WHIMSICAL LIE JUST TO GET OUT OF THE SITUATION.
IS IT SO DISDAINFUL TO BECOME MY WIFE...?!
THERE WAS ONE TIME
THAT I WENT TO KITASAGA
TO END THIS TRIFLING LIFE
EH?
THERE I MET A NOBLE LORD
WHOM I CANNOT FORGET
.....
HE TOLD ME, WHO WISHED TO DIE,
TO KEEP ON LIVING
HIS VERY WORDS
SAVED MY LIFE

AND THE NAME OF THAT MAN IS ..?
COULD IT BE...?
SINCE THEN, HE IS ALWAYS IN MY HEART
AND HE REMAINS THERE STILL.
A PURPLE CRYSTAL ROSARY
BUT HE GAVE ME
I DO NOT KNOW.
IF YOU HAVE MERCY ...
BUT HIM.
I SHALL NOT MARRY ANYONE
TO GIVE MYSELF COURAGE TO LIVE TO THIS DAY.
AND THAT ROPE ALONE HAVE I CLASPED
BUT THAT MEANS!
PLEASE ALLOW ME TO TAKE UP THE VEIL IN PEACE ..!

SO SHE...
HAS LIVED UNTIL TODAY AGONIZING OVER HER LOVE FOR ME, SINCE THAT DAY?
FOR HER, I WAS A NOBODY
BUT SHE WAS WILLING TO LEAVE EVERYTHING!
NAISHI NO KAMI!
IT'S A MATTER OF IMPORTANCE.
FORGIVE ME FOR MY IMPROPRIETY.
PUSH

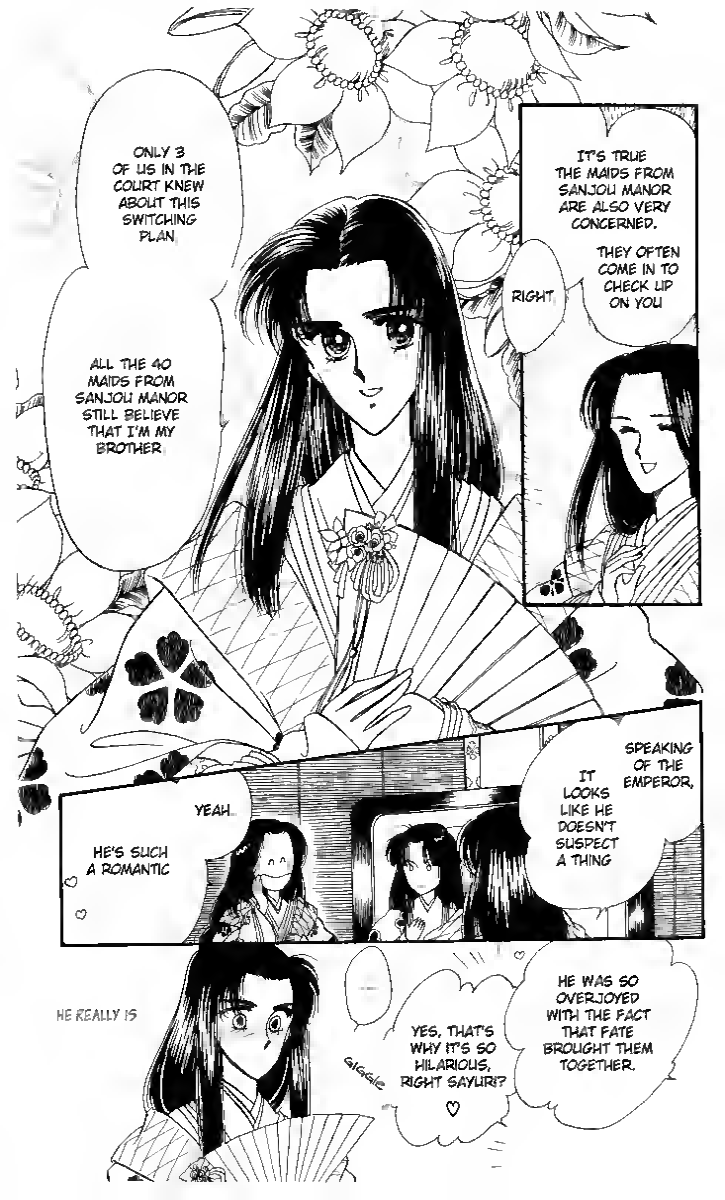
SNATCH
Twirl
Ah


THIS IS...
KIRA?!

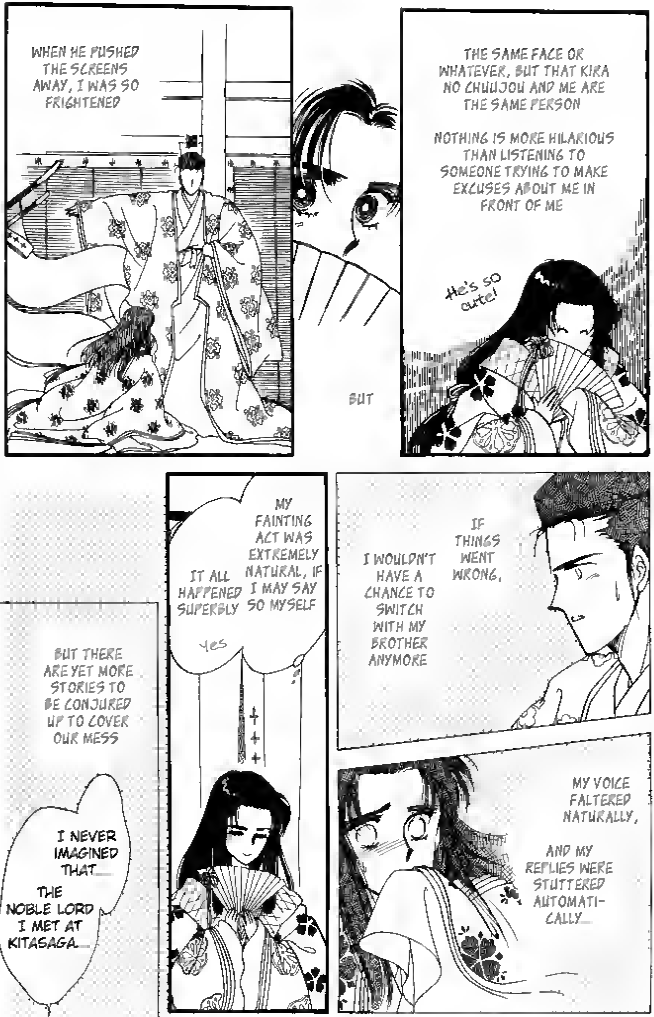
I WAS A FOOL KEEPING MY PROMISE WITH KIKA AND NEVER STEALING A GLIMPSE OF HER UNTIL NOW
SHE'S DEFINITELY THE REAL LADY OF KITASAGA NOT KIKA AT ALL..!
ARE THEY THIS MUCH ALIKE..?
WHAT'S THIS ?
NAISHI NO KAMI
AH
!
NAISHI NO KAMI?!
stagger

A month has passed and the cheerful breezy fifth month arrived.
At Nashitsubo manor?
KIRA NAISHI NO KAMI, YOU'RE REALLY SOME-THING!
REALLY, LET ME TELL YOU FOR THE HUNDRED TIME,
A result,
As
NAISHI NO KAMI!
the emperor was vehemently convinced (as usual) that our Kira was Naishi no kami
and the same lady he met at Kitasaga, who he pined for.

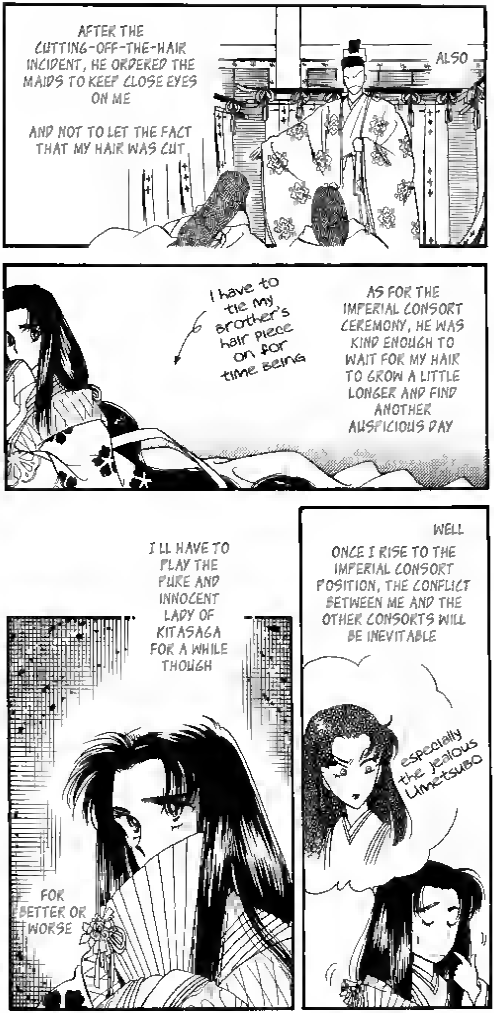
TO SWITCH ROLES WITH NAISHI NO KAMI WHILE YOUR HAIR IS STILL SHORT, YOU CAME UP WITH YOUR "I'LL BECOME A NUN" PLAN
YOU EVEN RAISED THE KITASAGA STORY TO EXPRESS YOUR FEELINGS FOR HIM. MY, YOU'RE AMAZING. I'M MIGHTY IMPRESSED!
CROWN PRINCESS, MY LADY, YOUR VOICE IS TOO LOUD.
Oh.
THAT'S RIGHT.
I'M SUPPOSED TO BE ILL AFTER BEING FRIGHTENED BY NAISHI NO KAMI CUTTING OFF HER HAIR.
BUT WHEN I RECALL THE LOOK ON THE MAIDS' FACES AT THAT TIME ..!
Ack! Nooo~
RIGHT NOW SANMI NO TSUBONE, MY HANDMAID, IS TOTALLY SHAKEN UP AND AFRAID YOU'LL TRY SOMETHING CRAZY AGAIN. "THOSE QUIET ONES CAN DO THE MOST UNEXPECTED THINGS," SHE SAID.


ONLY 3 OF US IN THE COURT KNEW ABOUT THIS SWITCHING PLAN.
ALL THE 40 MAIDS FROM SANJOU MANOR STILL BELIEVE THAT I'M MY BROTHER.
IT'S TRUE THE MAIDS FROM SANJOU MANOR ARE ALSO VERY CONCERNED.
THEY OFTEN COME IN TO CHECK UP ON YOU.
RIGHT.
SPEAKING OF THE EMPEROR,
IT LOOKS LIKE HE DOESN'T SUSPECT A THING.
YEAH.
HE'S SUCH A ROMANTIC
HE REALLY IS
Giggle
YES, THAT'S WHY IT'S SO HILARIOUS, RIGHT SAYURI?
HE WAS SO OVERJOYED WITH THE FACT THAT FATE BROUGHT THEM TOGETHER.

grin grin grin
HE VISITS SENYOUDEN EVERY DAY
AFTER THAT DAY HE'S BEEN SO CRAZY ABOUT ME
THE TWO OF YOU ARE THE EXACT IMAGE OF EACH OTHER
YOU AND KIRA ARE SO MUCH ALIKE THAT I COULDN'T HELP THINKING OF HIM AS IF HE WAS YOU.
BECAUSE HE WAS YOUR BROTHER
BUT THAT WAS SOLELY
AS FOR MY REGARD TOWARD KIRA NO CHUUJOU BEYOND THAT OF AN EMPEROR AND A COURTIER
THERE'S NO DENYING WHAT I TOLD YOU
I'M DYING TO LAUGH OUT LOUD!!
GOSH.
SO WHAT I'M TRYING TO SAY IS
...


WHEN HE PUSHED THE SCREENS AWAY, I WAS SO FRIGHTENED
BUT
THE SAME FACE OR WHATEVER, BUT THAT KIRA NO CHUUJOU AND ME ARE THE SAME PERSON
NOTHING IS MORE HILARIOUS THAN LISTENING TO SOMEONE TRYING TO MAKE EXCUSES ABOUT ME IN FRONT OF ME
He's so cute!
IF THINGS WENT WRONG,
I WOULDN'T HAVE A CHANCE TO SWITCH WITH MY BROTHER ANYMORE
MY VOICE FALTERED NATURALLY,
AND MY REPLIES WERE STUTTERED AUTOMATICALLY...
MY FAINTING ACT WAS EXTREMELY NATURAL, IF I MAY SAY SO MYSELF
IT ALL HAPPENED SUPERBLY
Yes
BUT THERE ARE YET MORE STORIES TO BE CONJURED UP TO COVER OUR MESS
I NEVER IMAGINED THAT... THE NOBLE LORD I MET AT KITASAGA...

IT WAS A TERRIBLY RUDE ACT TOWARD THE EMPEROR...
WHAT A FOOL I WAS..
WOULD BE HIS MAJESTY
NAISHI NO KAMI
BUT WITH MY HAIR LIKE THIS...
SO WOULD YOU PLEASE RECONSIDER BECOMING MY CONSORT ONE MORE TIME?
TO BE ABLE TO MEET ONCE MORE MEANS FATE HAS DESTINED US TO BE TOGETHER.
I KEPT THINKING OF YOU EVER SINCE WE MET AT KITASAGA
My, he's so quick with his reply!
I'VE TOLD YOU MANY TIMES
DO NOT WORRY OVER SUCH A SMALL MATTER!


AFTER THE CUTTING-OFF-THE-HAIR INCIDENT, HE ORDERED THE MAIDS TO KEEP CLOSE EYES ON ME
AND NOT TO LET THE FACT THAT MY HAIR WAS CUT
ALSO
I have to tie my brother's hair piece on for time being
AS FOR THE IMPERIAL CONSORT CEREMONY, HE WAS KIND ENOUGH TO WAIT FOR MY HAIR TO GROW A LITTLE LONGER AND FIND ANOTHER AUSPICIOUS DAY
I'LL HAVE TO PLAY THE PURE AND INNOCENT LADY OF KITASAGA FOR A WHILE THOUGH
FOR BETTER OR WORSE
WELL
ONCE I RISE TO THE IMPERIAL CONSORT POSITION, THE CONFLICT BETWEEN ME AND THE OTHER CONSORTS WILL BE INEVITABLE
especially the jealous Umetsubo

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I'LL DO MY BEST..!
IT'S FOR MY BELOVED EMPEROR
AHH ♡
I JUST CAN'T BELIEVE IT
THINGS ARE GOING SO SMOOTHLY
KIRA-SAMA
IT MAY SEEM LIKE IT,
BUT LORD KIRA'S PROBLEM STILL REMAINS UNSOLVED
Totally forgot
THAT'S RIGHT!
WHEN NAISHI NO KAMI .
I MEAN, KIRA NO CHUUJOU COMES BACK,
THEN WE CAN SAY THE PLAN HAS TRULY SUCCEEDED!

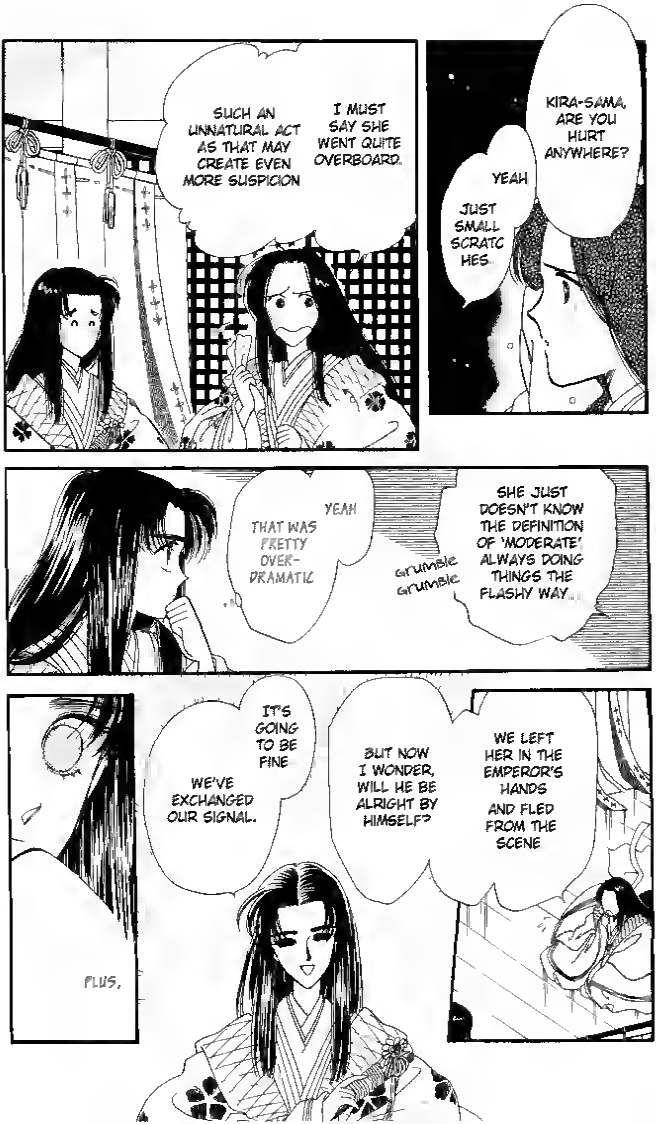
fidget fidget
OH, THAT'S RIGHT!
HAS SADAIJIN ALREADY REPORTED TO THE EMPEROR ABOUT KIRA NO CHIJIJOU'S RETURN?!
SAYURI—!
ARE YOU SURE KIRA NO CHIJIJOU MADE IT HOME LAST NIGHT?
HE SHOULD HAVE RETURNED ALREADY BUT...
YES, HE HAS
BUT MY LADY ISN'T SUPPOSED TO GET UP AND STRUT AROUND LIKE THAT
retreat retreat shiver
OH, THERE! SOMEONE HAS COME!
QUICK, GET INSIDE.
CROWN PRINCESS, I'M SURE YOU REALIZE THAT KIRA NO CHIJIJOU'S FUTURE IN ALL IN YOUR HAND RIGHT NOW!
I KNOW!
.....

WHAT'S MATTER?
THE CROWN PRINCESS IS STILL RESTING AS USUAL
Oh my! So my brother is back?!
WHY DID HE HAVE TO COME BACK TO THE CAPITAL PURPOSE-FULLY TO HAVE AN ATTENDANCE WITH HER ONE LAST TIME
WAS THERE SOMETHING BETWEEN KIRA NO CHUUJOU AND THE CROWN PRINCESS?
BEFORE HE TAKES UP MONASTI-CISM...?
WELL, MY LADY..
Wave
Wave
Too loud
Shh
shh
I'LL BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR IT AS WELL...
AND IF KIRA NO CHUUJOU'S DISAPPEARANCE HAD SOMETHING TO DO WITH THE CROWN PRINCESS,
IF THE CROWN PRINCESS WHO IS AN EXPERT IN EAVESDROPPING HEARS ABOUT THIS, WE'RE DONE FOR..!
Bang!

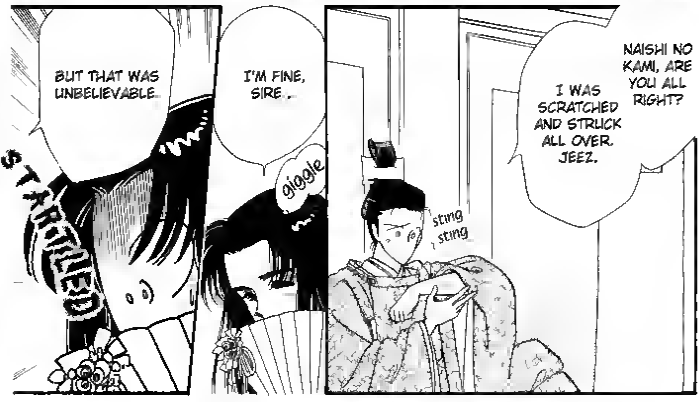
KIRA NO CHUUJOU'S RETURNED?!
Oh no
AAH!
HE MUST HAVE COME TO SEE ME
I KNEW HE WOULDN'T LEAVE ME HERE FOREVER.
CALM DOWN!
PLEASE GET A HOLD OF YOURSELF!!
I'M GOING TO SEE KIRA-SAMA...
NO!
CROWN PRINCESS!
I'M GOING RIGHT NOW!!
Dash
Grab
HURRY.
BRING KIRA NO CHUUJOU IN!
I SHALL GO TO SEE HIM MYSELF
NO!

FLUSTER
FLUSTER
ISN'T HIS MAJESTY HERE YET?!
TH-THE EMPEROR
...
Bang
Thud
I'M GOING!
CROWN PRINCESS !!
☆
Y-Your Majesty!
WHAT'S THIS COMMOTION?
EXPLAIN IT!
Yawnnn
CROWN PRINCESS
YOUR MAJESTY !

I'LL ...
I'LL DIE!
IF KIRA NO CHUIJOU BECOMES A MONK,
I'LL BECOME A NUN TOO!
I'LL ...
IF YOU PUNISH KIRA NO CHUIJOU OR FAIL TO STOP HIM,
SOB
SOB
SOB
.....
CROWN PRINCESS. !!
Senyouden manor


KIRA-SAMA, ARE YOU HURT ANYWHERE?
YEAH
JUST SMALL SCRATCHES
I MUST SAY SHE WENT QUITE OVERBOARD.
SUCH AN UNNATURAL ACT AS THAT MAY CREATE EVEN MORE SUSPICION
SHE JUST DOESN'T KNOW THE DEFINITION OF 'MODERATE' ALWAYS DOING THINGS THE FLASHY WAY...
grumble grumble
YEAH
THAT WAS PRETTY OVER-DRAMATIC
WE LEFT HER IN THE EMPEROR'S HANDS AND FLED FROM THE SCENE
BUT NOW I WONDER, WILL HE BE ALRIGHT BY HIMSELF?
IT'S GOING TO BE FINE
WE'VE EXCHANGED OUR SIGNAL.
PLUS,

NAISHI NO KAMI-SAMA
HIS MAJESTY IS HERE TO SEE YOU.
SHE'LL DO HER BEST FOR HER BELOVED KIKA NO CHUUJOU
WELL, THE CROWN PRINCESS FINALLY RAN OUT OF FUEL



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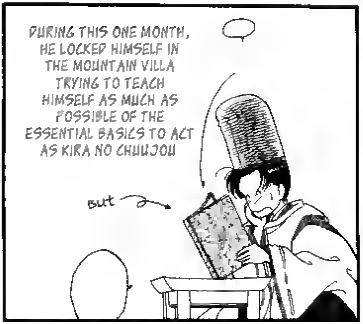
THE CROWN PRINCESS MAY BE AN OBNOXIOUS BRAT
BUT I NEVER KNEW SHE COULD THROW SUCH A FIT OVER HER LOVE LIFE
IT WAS A BIG SURPRISE TO ME
IT TRULY NEVER OCCURRED TO ME THAT
THOSE TWO MIGHT FALL IN LOVE WITH EACH OTHER
HOW ABOUT YOU? HAD YOU NOTICED IT BEFORE? NAISHI NO KAMI
I TRIED TO CALM HER DOWN AND ASKED WHAT WAS GOING ON.
FROM WHAT SHE TOLD ME
SINCE KIRA CAME TO VISIT YOU EVERYDAY AT THE BACK PALACE,
THE THOSE BECAME CLOSE AND THEIR FRIENDSHIP BLOOMED INTO LOVE
NOT AT ALL, MAJESTY
HOW WOULD THAT BE POSSIBLE?
THE WHOLE STORY WAS COMPLETELY MADE UP!
Trying so hard not to laugh

I SEE.
AS YOURSELF, IT MUST BE A SHOCK.
FOR SOMEONE AS CLOSE TO THE CROWN PRINCESS
BUT I'M NO LESS SURPRISED MYSELF.
THINKING BACK, KIRA DISAPPEARED FOR A LONG TIME,
BUT EVERYDAY SHE WAS PLAYING GAMES WITH YOU, WITH A HAPPY CHEERY FACE.
Ahem
YOUR MAJESTY...
SAYURI
SHHH...
I TOLD YOU IT WAS TOO DRAMATIC!
And suddenly today she burst out like this!

I FEEL THAT PERHAPS THE CROWN PRINCESS BLAMED HERSELF FOR KIRA'S DISAPPEARANCE
TO AVOID TAINTING KIRA NO CHUUJOU'S NAME, SHE MUST HAVE BEEN TRYING HER HARDEST TO HIDE HER SADNESS AND ACT CHEERFUL.
HIDE HER SADNESS? ACT CHEERFUL? HM..
BUT ACCORDING TO HER NATURE, THOSE THINGS ARE IMPOSSIBLE.
Crap
JUST THINK OF THE 3RD LADY OF THE UDAIJIN FAMILY.
BUT A WOMAN IN LOVE CAN CHANGE

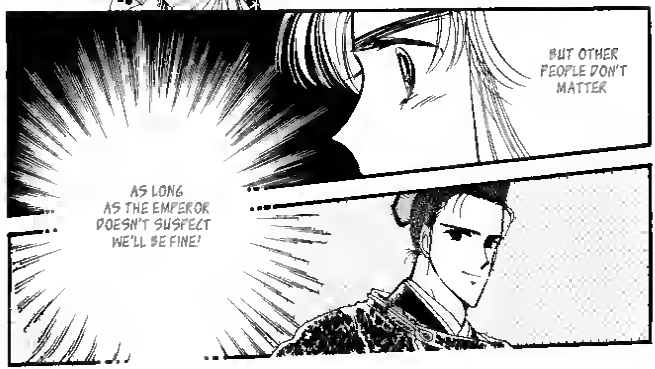
YOU MAY BE RIGHT
LIKE A WOMAN WHO USED TO BE SO DELICATE AND SHY,
BUT UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUM-STANCES, SHE PROMPTLY MARCHED OUT AND CUT HER HAIR.
WINK
H-HE'S SO SILLY
I WAS SCRAPING THE BARREL
FOR SOMETHING TO COVER UP THE CROWN PRINCESS'S ACT
AND HE SUDDENLY TURNED IT INTO A TEASE
BUT
THIS WAY IT'LL BE EASIER FOR THE EMPEROR
TO BELIEVE THE CROWN PRINCESS'S STORY
^^
WHAT'S LEFT IS MY BROTHER'S FAST.


DURING THIS ONE MONTH, HE LOCKED HIMSELF IN THE MOUNTAIN VILLA TRYING TO TEACH HIMSELF AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE OF THE ESSENTIAL BASICS TO ACT AS KIRA NO CHUUJOU
but

HE HAS NO BASIS FOR HOW TO LIVE AS A MALE
HE MAY HAVE IMMERSED HIMSELF IN THE COURT ENVIRONMENT, BUT ONLY AS A NAISHI NO KAMI

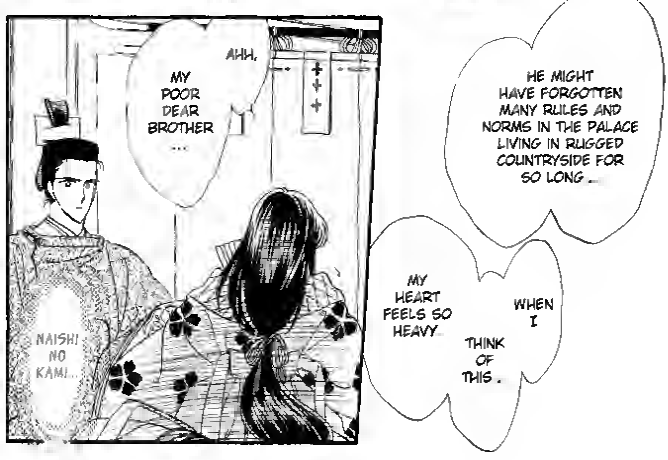
?
?
BUT THE DIFFERENCE IN PERSONALITY AND THE WAY WE ACT ARE INEVITABLE SOME PEOPLE WILL SURELY BECOME SUSPICIOUS

I can't remember every tiny detail
I can't possibly teach him everything about the court


BUT OTHER PEOPLE DON'T MATTER
AS LONG AS THE EMPEROR DOESN'T SUSPECT WE'LL BE FINE!

I'M TRULY DELIGHTED THAT KIRA NO CHUUJOU WILL BE BACK.
BUT I HAVE NO IDEA HOW TO BEHAVE AROUND HIM.
sigh
IT IS VEXING.
YOU NEEDN'T WORRY ABOUT ANYTHING.
KIRA NO CHUUJOU DID NO SERIOUS HARM
DON'T BE
I'M MOST WORRIED ABOUT THIS.
MAY I ASK WHAT PUNISHMENT YOU HAVE IN MIND FOR MY BROTHER WHO LEFT HIS POST WITHOUT LEAVING A WORD?
I UNDERSTAND THAT HE MUST HAVE BEEN GUILTY ENOUGH
FOR MAKING SO MANY PEOPLE WORRIED.
YOU MUST BE ANXIOUS TO SEE YOUR BROTHER
BUT WHY DON'T WE WAIT A LITTLE LONGER FOR HIM TO SETTLE DOWN BEFORE I CALL HIM IN TO ATTEND TO HIS DUTIES?
IT'S THE MOMENT.

I NEED TO STRIKE WHILE THE IRON'S HOT !!
HE LEFT THE CAPITAL FOR MONTHS, LIFE MUST HAVE BEEN HARD ON HIM
PERHAPS HIS PERSONALITY OR OTHER THINGS
IS THAT SO?
MAY HAVE CHANGED
I SAY HE MUST HAVE


AHH.
MY POOR DEAR BROTHER ...
NAISHI NO KAMI..
HE MIGHT HAVE FORGOTTEN MANY RULES AND NORMS IN THE PALACE LIVING IN RUGGED COUNTRYSIDE FOR SO LONG ...
MY HEART FEELS SO HEAVY
WHEN I THINK OF THIS .

SAISHOU NO CHUUJOU, TOO, HAS BECOME A DIFFERENT MAN AFTER THE INCIDENT
IT DOESN'T CHANGE WHO HE IS.
NO MATTER HOW HE'S CHANGED,
YOU TWO ARE SUCH LOVING SIBLINGS.
PLEASE DON'T BE ANXIOUS OVER THIS SMALL MATTER
HEARING YOUR MAJESTY'S WORDS PUTS MY MIND AT PEACE.
I'LL NOT ALLOW KIRA NO CHUUJOU TO BE PUT UNDER SCRUTINY OR RIDICULE!
YOUNG PEOPLE ARE PRONE TO CHANGE AFTER MAJOR INCIDENTS HAPPENS IN THEIR LIVES
BESIDES, I FEEL MY BROTHER IS BLESSED TO BE SO GREATLY ADMIRED BY YOUR MAJESTY
Eh?!

REALLY, HE SHOWERS ME WITH FLATTERY
My number one is Naishi no kami, you know!
N-NOT REALLY IT'S TRUE IN THE PAST..
THAT WAS WHY I..
BECAUSE KIRA NO CHUUJOU RESEMBLED YOU SO MUCH.
GIGGLE
BUT I'M GLAD NOW WHEN MY BROTHER APPEARS AS "THE CHANGED KIRA NO CHUUJOU," HIS MAJESTY WILL STILL ACCEPT HIM.
AND HOW ABOUT THE MATTER BETWEEN MY BROTHER AND THE CROWN PRINCESS? I DON'T SUPPOSE YOU WOULD AGREE TO IT?
I'D LOVE TO FORMALLY APPROVE OF THEIR RELATIONSHIP IF IT'S STILL POSSIBLE.
WHY NOT?

UMETSUBO AND THE CONSORTS WILL REVIVE THEIR WARS
IT MEANS SHE MUST LEAVE HER POSITION, AND PEOPLE WILL RIOT FOR AN HEIR AGAIN
IN THAT CASE,
HOWEVER,
FOR A CROWN PRINCESS TO MARRY A SUBORDINATE...
LOSE STRENGTH
exhausted just thinking about it
Disaster ensues.
THEN HER MARRIAGE WITH A SUBORDINATE WILL BE NO MATTER
IF SHE'S BROUGHT DOWN TO A MERE PRINCESS,
THE CROWN PRINCESS HAS ALWAYS BEEN UNCOMFORTABLE WITH HER POSITION

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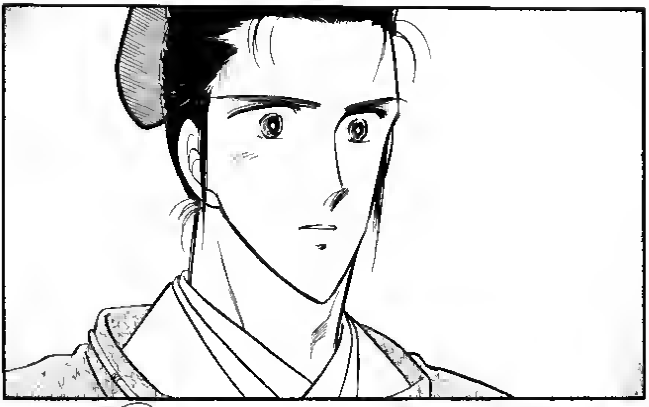
THIS WAY THEIR MATTER WILL END SMOOTHLY..
I SUPPOSE
BUT IN THAT CASE,
I'LL NEED A SON TO BE HEIR INSTEAD..
HOWEVER, THE ONE WHO I MOST WISH TO BEAR ME A SON HASN'T BECOME AN IMPERIAL CONSORT YET.
KIRA NO CHUUJOU'S LOVE WILL HAVE TO REMAIN FULL OF OBSTACLES.
HE'S RIGHT

She's using us as an excuse
NOBODY KNOWS IF I WILL GIVE HIM A SON
BUT FOR THE SAKE OF EVERYONE'S HAPPINESS, I SHOULDN'T PLAY HARD TO GET
WELL, FOR THE SUCCESS OF OUR ROLE TRADING,
WE'LL HAVE TO TAKE WHATEVER ACTION IS NECESSARY
A SON...? YOUR MAJESTY?
LET'S SAY
I'LL DO MY BEST TO MAKE IT HAPPEN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!
Sweet Smile
NYORAI BUDDHA AND THE IZUMO GODS
WILL DISCUSS THAT MATTER
AND GIVE US A HEALTHY BABY WHEN THE TIME IS RIGHT.



SHE IS INDEED SUCH A PURE AND INNOCENT YOUNG LADY
slush
What're you laughing about, Sayuri?
But Kira-sama theee I can't breath

And the two of them have successfully switched back to the lives most suited to them.

Naishi no kami, the brother, has become a lord.

Kira no chuujou, the sister, has become a lady;

Therefore, ☆

To conclude that with "they live happily ever after" would be too trite.
For now, at least,
The story has come to an end
In a pleasant fashion.
So imagine their lives beyond this point yourselves.

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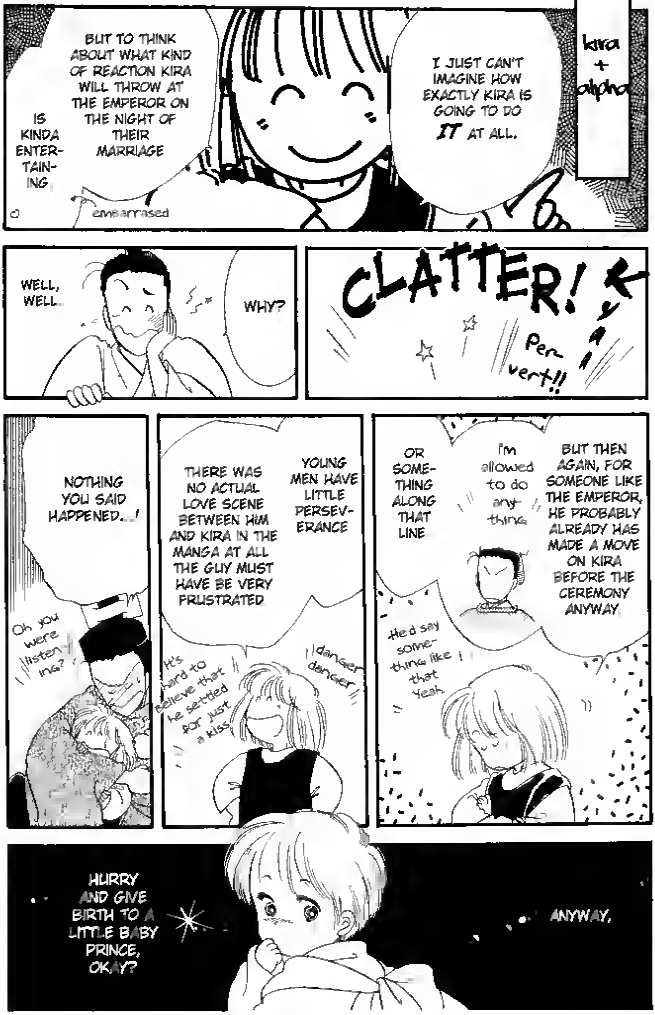
Free talkshow


I JUST CAN'T IMAGINE HOW EXACTLY KIRA IS GOING TO DO IT AT ALL.
BUT TO THINK ABOUT WHAT KIND OF REACTION KIRA WILL THROW AT THE EMPEROR ON THE NIGHT OF THEIR MARRIAGE
IS KINDA ENTERTAINING
embarrassed
kira + alpha
WELL, WELL
WHY?
CLATTER!
Pervert!!
NOTHING YOU SAID HAPPENED...!
Oh you were listening?
THERE WAS NO ACTUAL LOVE SCENE BETWEEN HIM AND KIRA IN THE MANGA AT ALL THE GUY MUST HAVE BE VERY FRUSTRATED
YOUNG MEN HAVE LITTLE PERSEVERANCE
It's hard to believe that he settled for just a kiss.
danger! danger!
OR SOMETHING ALONG THAT LINE
I'm allowed to do anything
BUT THEN AGAIN, FOR SOMEONE LIKE THE EMPEROR, HE PROBABLY ALREADY HAS MADE A MOVE ON KIRA BEFORE THE CEREMONY ANYWAY
He'd say something like that. Yeah.
HURRY AND GIVE BIRTH TO A LITTLE BABY PRINCE, OKAY?
ANYWAY,

〈収録作品メモ〉
●ざ・ちぇんじ！④　昭和63年　エザ7　9月号掲載
●季節おくれのラブ・タイム　昭和58年　花とゆめ18号掲載
●くーたら会長にサヨナラ　昭和56年　花とゆめ1号掲載
●ふりーとぉくSHOW　描きおろし

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CREDITS

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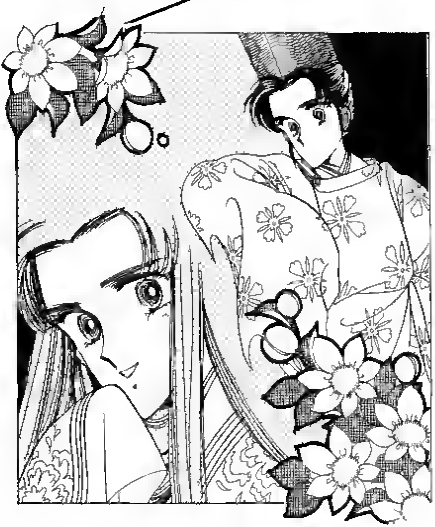
The Changelings

Frontispiece Gallery



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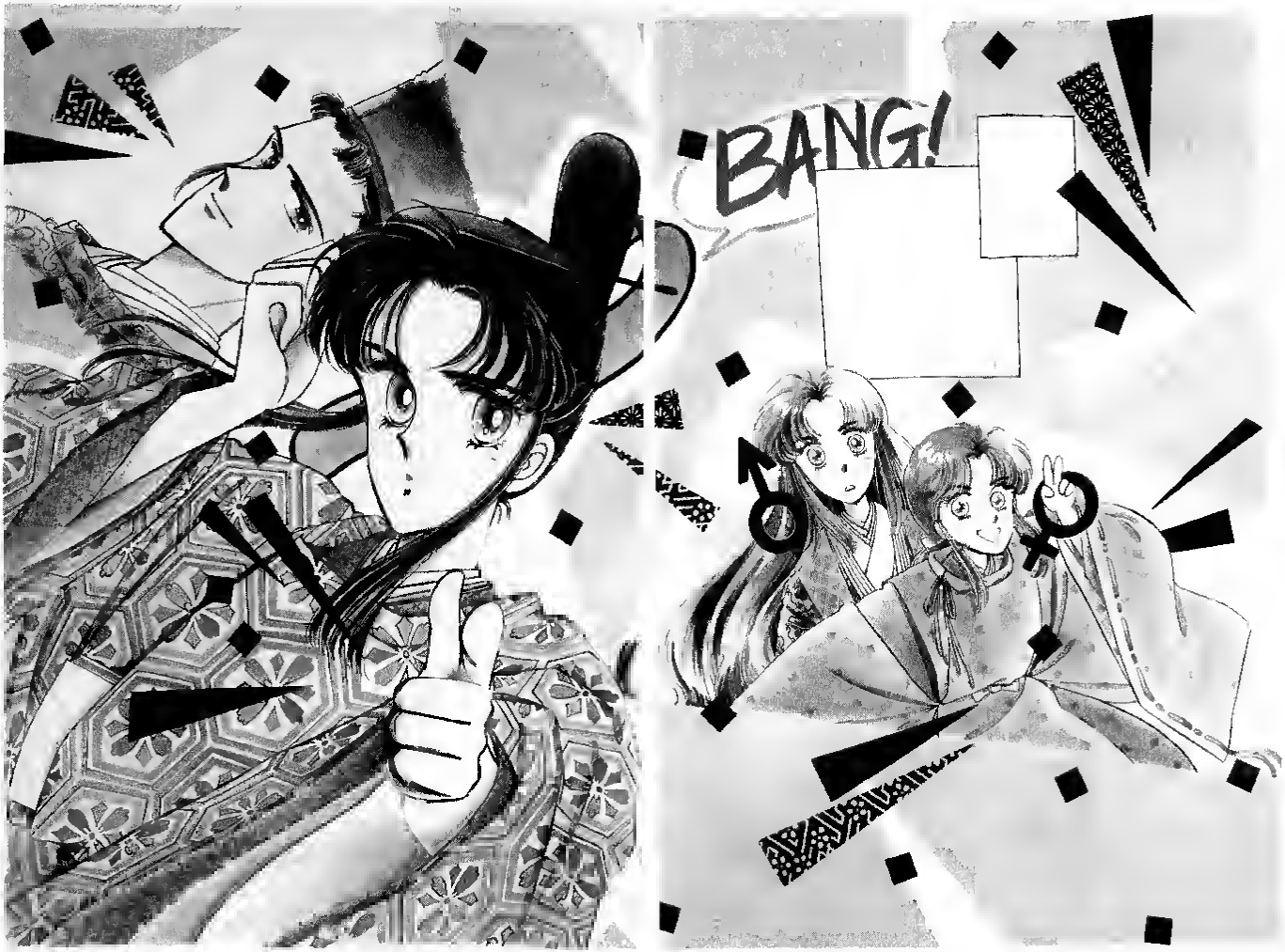

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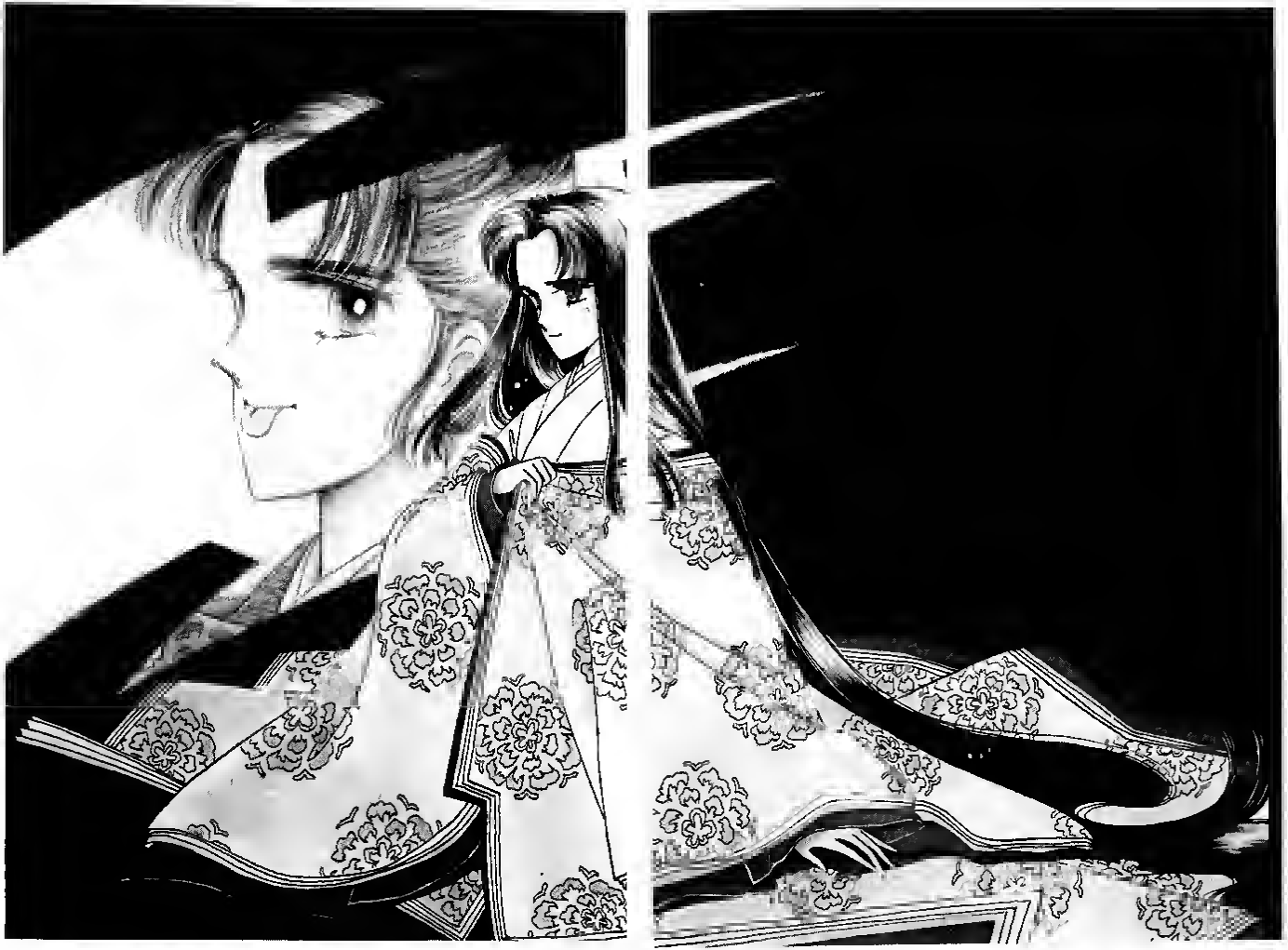

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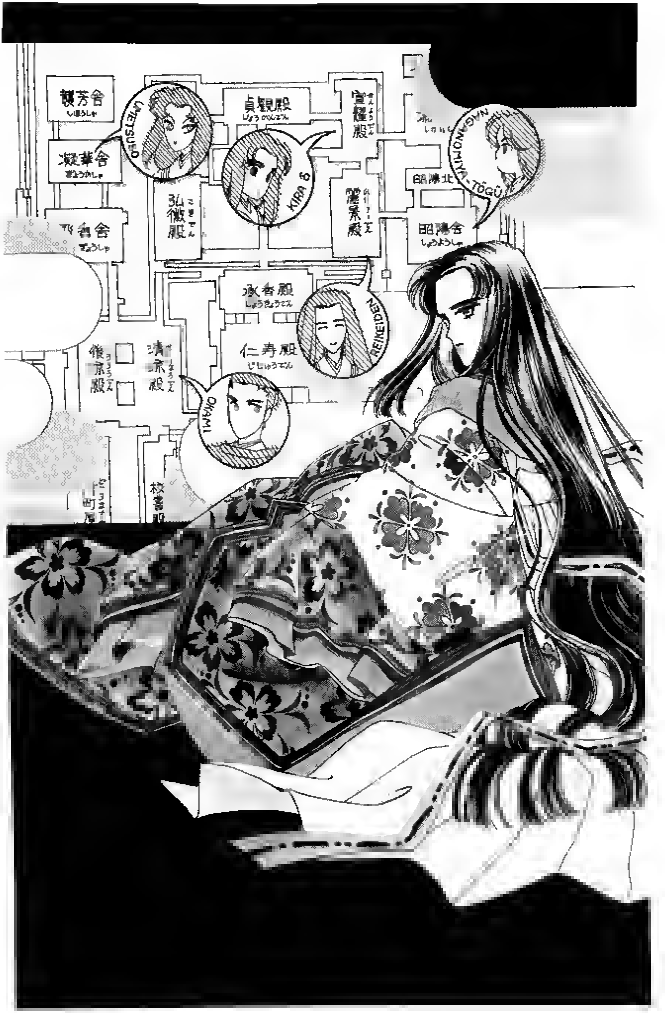
其の七



エヂ昭和62年9月号掲載

其の八

エポ昭和62年11月号掲載

其の十

エヂ昭和63年3月号掲載

其の十一

エポ昭和63年5月号掲載

其の十三

エポ昭和63年9月号掲載